



Security Council

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Letter dated 18 December 2020 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014), containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2020. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Inga Rhonda **King**
Chair
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014)



Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Inga Rhonda King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), and a representative of Estonia as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 2140 (2014), the Security Council imposed an asset freeze and a travel ban, for an initial period of one year from the date of the adoption of the resolution (26 February 2014), on individuals and entities engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security or stability of Yemen. Exemptions to the measures were also included. The Council established a committee to designate such individuals and entities and to oversee the implementation of the measures and a panel of experts to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate. The Committee was also tasked with encouraging a dialogue between the Committee and interested Member States, in particular those in the region, and directed to cooperate with other relevant Council sanctions committees, in particular the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. On 7 November 2014, the Committee designated the former President of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh, and two commanders of the Houthi Ansarallah movement as subject to the asset freeze and travel ban.
4. By its resolution 2216 (2015), the Security Council renewed the asset freeze and travel ban for a further period of one year and also imposed a targeted arms embargo against designated individuals and entities. Inspection provisions were included in the context of the enforcement of the arms embargo, including requirements with regard to reporting to the Committee by any Member State when it undertakes an inspection, and additional reporting if prohibited items for supply, sale or transfer are found. The Council broadened the designation criteria to include violations of the targeted arms embargo as well as obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Yemen or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in Yemen. It designated the leader of the Houthi Ansarallah movement, Abdulmalik al-Houthi, and the former President's son, Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, as subject to the sanctions measures. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was also broadened to include monitoring the implementation of the arms embargo, and the size of the Panel was increased from four experts to five as a result.
5. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was most recently extended until 28 March 2021 by the Security Council in its resolution 2511 (2020), by which the Council also renewed until 26 February 2021 the asset freeze and travel ban. By this resolution, the Council also further elaborated the designation criteria.
6. Further background information on the Yemen sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

7. The Committee met once in informal consultations, on 10 January, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.
8. In the light of the challenges posed to the Committee's usual procedures by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the limitations on holding in-person meetings, and in order to ensure the continuity of its work, the members of the Committee agreed, on an exceptional basis, to hold a virtual meeting in the form of a closed videoconference on 14 August.
9. During the informal consultations held on 10 January, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its final report (S/2020/326), submitted in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 2456 (2019), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.
10. During the closed videoconference held on 14 August, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel's midterm update, submitted in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 2511 (2020), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.
11. In accordance with paragraph 104 of the annex to the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507), the Committee issued a press release containing a brief summary of the informal consultations held on 10 January.
12. On 18 February, pursuant to paragraph 19 (e) of resolution 2140 (2014), the Chair of the Committee briefed the Security Council on the activities of the Committee in a public meeting (S/PV.8725).
13. In 2020, the Committee received 46 inspection reports from the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen. The Committee also received three implementation reports from three Member States.
14. The Committee sent 3 communications to 3 stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

15. Exemptions to the asset freeze are outlined in paragraphs 12 to 14 of resolution 2140 (2014).
16. Exemptions to the travel ban are outlined in paragraph 16 of resolution 2140 (2014).
17. Exemptions, on a case-by-case basis, to any activity from the sanctions measures are outlined in paragraph 3 of resolution 2511 (2020).
18. During the reporting period, the Committee received and approved one request for exemption to the sanctions measures.

V. Sanctions list

19. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo are set out in paragraphs 17 and 18 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 19 of resolution 2216 (2015). The criteria are further detailed in paragraph 6 of resolution 2511 (2020). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

20. No entries were added to or removed from the list. As at the end of the reporting period, there were five individuals on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Panel of Experts

21. On 27 December 2019, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution [2456 \(2019\)](#), the Panel of Experts provided its final report to the Committee ([S/2020/326](#)), which was transmitted to the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

22. On 31 March 2020, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution [2511 \(2020\)](#) on 25 February, the Secretary-General appointed five experts to the Panel, with expertise in arms, armed groups, finance, international humanitarian law and regional issues (see [S/2020/260](#)). The mandate of the Panel expires on 28 March 2021.

23. On 14 August, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution [2511 \(2020\)](#), the Panel presented its midterm update to the Committee.

24. The Panel conducted visits to Djibouti, Germany, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In Yemen, the Panel undertook visits to Ma'rib and Mukalla.

25. In pursuance of its mandate, the Panel of Experts, through the Secretariat, sent 132 letters to 54 Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

26. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime.

27. The Division worked with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Office of Information and Communication Technology of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance to facilitate the conduct of virtual meetings held by the Committee, through a variety of platforms.

28. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 14 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 27 November, notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Panel of Experts and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. On 25 November, vacancy announcements were also made available online at careers.un.org.

29. The Division continued to provide support to the Panel of Experts, conducting a virtual induction for all members and assisting in the preparation of the Panel's final report, submitted to the Committee in January, and its midterm update, submitted to the Committee in July. While COVID-19 restrictions impeded the travel of Panel members for much of the year, the Secretariat facilitated travel by Panel members to Member States, taking into account World Health Organization guidelines, national

travel advisories and other COVID-19 related requirements. The Secretariat also organized a remote workshop on investigative techniques, held from 14 to 16 December, which was focused on investigative methods and tools for experts. In addition, the Secretariat organized training sessions for experts on the use of subscription-based analytical products and programmes, databases and other research tools to facilitate their monitoring and reporting work.

30. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the United Nations Security Council Consolidated List and the committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to the lists, as well as further developing, in all official languages, the data model approved in 2011 by the Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Council in paragraph 54 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#). Since November 2020, the notes verbales notifying Member States about listings on, de-listings from and updates to the Consolidated List and the committee-specific sanctions lists have also been made available in Arabic, Chinese and Russian, in addition to English, French and Spanish, in order to facilitate the timely implementation of changes to the relevant lists.
