

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 31 July 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the presidential statement dated 2 June 2000 (S/PRST/2000/20), in which the Security Council requested me to establish an expert panel on the illegal exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I wish to inform you that, having completed the usual consultations, it is my intention to appoint as Chairperson of the panel Safiatou Ba-N'Daw (Côte d'Ivoire). Mme. Ba-N'Daw, a former Minister of Energy and a former senior official at the World Bank, is an eminent person whose experience amply qualifies her to occupy this important position.

For the four members of the panel, I propose the following persons of proven professional expertise, impartiality and knowledge of the subregion:

François Ekoko (Cameroon)

Moustapha Tall (Senegal)

Henri Maire (Switzerland)

Mel Holt (United States of America)

Subject to the approval of the Security Council, the Chairperson and members of the Council would convene in New York for an initial briefing before proceeding to Nairobi, which would serve as the base of their operations. The panel would then submit to the Council, through me, a preliminary report after three months containing its initial findings and a final report, with recommendations, at the end of its mandate.

The panel will be assisted by a small staff.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. **Annan**