



Security Council

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Letter dated 17 December 2014 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) 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 1988 (2011), containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2014. 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 could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Gary **Quinlan**
Chair

Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1988 (2011)



Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Gary Quinlan (Australia) as Chair and the representatives of Chile and the Russian Federation as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 1267 (1999), the Security Council imposed limited air and financial embargoes to compel the Taliban to cease providing sanctuary and training to terrorists, including Usama bin Laden. The regime was modified in resolutions 1333 (2000) and 1390 (2002) to impose three targeted measures (an assets freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo) against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Exemptions to the assets freeze and travel ban are available. On 17 June 2011, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), which split the regime in two, establishing one committee for Al-Qaida and another for the Taliban. The sanctions measures against the Taliban and other individuals and groups associated therewith were imposed by resolution 1988 (2011), followed by resolutions 2082 (2012) and 2160 (2014).
4. By its resolution 2160 (2014), adopted on 17 June, the Security Council extended the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team until 17 December 2017. The eight individuals serving with the Monitoring Team at that time continued throughout 2014 (see S/2011/789, S/2013/33, S/2013/532, S/2013/676 and S/2014/210).
5. Further background information on the Taliban sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual report (S/2013/789).

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

6. The Committee met five times in informal consultations, on 11 February, 22 May, 12 August, 22 October and 23 December, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.
7. The Committee considered three written reports of the Monitoring Team during informal consultations: the fourth report (on 22 May) and the fifth report and the special written report submitted pursuant to paragraph (p) of the annex to resolution 2160 (2014) (on 23 December).
8. The Committee sent 99 communications to 56 Member States and a communication to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

9. Exemptions to the assets freeze (for either basic or extraordinary expenses) may be granted in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006). There are three types of exemption to the travel ban, as described in paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 2160 (2014): entry or departure of a State's own nationals, where entry or transit is necessary for the fulfilment of a judicial process or where the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that entry or transit is justified, including where this directly relates to supporting efforts by the Government of Afghanistan to promote reconciliation. Pursuant to paragraph 27 of resolution 2160 (2014), the focal point mechanism established in resolution 1730 (2006) may also receive exemption requests submitted by, or on behalf of, a listed individual or entity. The Taliban sanctions regime does not provide for any exemption to the arms embargo.

10. The Committee, mindful that the Security Council provided for exemptions from the assets freeze, including for humanitarian purposes, continued to consider notifications and requests for such exemptions submitted pursuant to paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) of Council resolution 1452 (2002). The Secretariat also maintained and regularly updated the list of States having approached the Committee pursuant to the resolution. The Committee received no such exemption requests.

V. Sanctions list

11. The listing criteria for the Taliban sanctions regime are set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 2160 (2014) and pertain to association with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan.

12. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 134 individuals and 94 entities listed under the Taliban sanctions regime. During the reporting period, an individual was delisted and four individuals were listed by the Committee.

VI. Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team

13. On 31 January, in accordance with paragraph (d) of the annex to resolution 2082 (2014), the Monitoring Team submitted to the Committee, for its information, its planned programme of work until December.

14. On 30 April, in accordance with paragraph (a) of the annex to resolution 2082 (2014), the Monitoring Team submitted its fourth report (S/2014/402), providing an update on the threat posed by the Taliban and associated groups to the security of Afghanistan and on the reconciliation process.

15. On 31 October, in accordance with paragraph (a) of the annex to resolution 2160 (2014), the Monitoring Team submitted its fifth report, including recommendations.

16. On 1 December, in accordance with paragraph (p) of the annex to resolution 2160 (2014), the Monitoring Team submitted a special written report, in consultation with the Government of Afghanistan, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations sanctions expert panels, on specific

cases of cooperation between organized crime syndicates, notably groups undertaking hostage-taking for ransom, narcotics producers and traders, as well as those illegally exploiting natural resources in Afghanistan, including precious and semi-precious stones, and those individuals, groups, undertakings and entities eligible for listing under paragraph 1 of the resolution. The report contained recommendations.

17. The Monitoring Team undertook visits to Member States to discuss the threat posed by Taliban affiliates with government officials, national experts and representatives of several international organizations. It also discussed measures taken by countries to implement resolutions 2082 (2012) and 2160 (2014). It travelled to Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Monaco, the Russian Federation, the United States of America (Washington, D.C., and West Point, New York) and Uzbekistan.

18. In addition to its mandated reports, the Monitoring Team presented key findings in its trip reports.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

19. The Security Council Affairs Division provided administrative and substantive support to the Chair and members of the Committee. Support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and to facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures.

20. The Division also managed the Committee's website in accordance with the Committee's guidelines, including by updating its sanctions list. In response to resolutions 2083 (2012) and 2161 (2014), and to further promote the implementation of Security Council sanctions regimes by national authorities, the Division standardized the format of all Council sanctions lists and established the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List, comprising the names included in all the sanctions lists of the Council sanctions committees. In addition, the Division created and maintained INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices to promote the effective implementation of the sanctions measures.

21. As part of the Division's effort to recruit well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, and as is done annually, a note verbale was sent to all Member States in December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the Division's roster of experts. Upon the receipt of nominations, the Division will assess the suitability of nominated candidates for its roster, for future consideration for the relevant expert panels. The roster, developed in partnership with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, uses a versatile technological platform to screen candidates against available terms of reference for expert positions and manages their profiles for consideration for current and future positions on expert panels. The roster is designed to ensure that the sanctions committees have access to a broad pool of qualified candidates, with due regard for geographical diversity and gender balance. An invitation to join the roster does not guarantee actual selection or consideration for available positions.

22. In 2014, the Division continued to provide administrative and substantive support to the Monitoring Team, conducting an induction for newly appointed members, in New York, and assisting in the preparation of the Monitoring Team's fourth, fifth and special written reports.

23. To promote greater cooperation among the different panels, the Division organized a second annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 16 and 17 December. The event was attended by members of all 11 monitoring groups, teams and panels. The focus of the workshop was on enhancing cooperation with the United Nations system. Moreover, the Division created a collaborative web-based platform allowing each panel of experts to securely manage its own information and to promote working-level communication across panels in the fields of arms, finance, aviation, customs and transport.
