



Security Council

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Letter dated 20 December 2019 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution [751 \(1992\)](#) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution [751 \(1992\)](#) concerning Somalia, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2019. 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) Marc **Pecsteen de Buytswerve**
Chair

Security Council Committee pursuant to
resolution [751 \(1992\)](#) concerning Somalia



Report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve (Belgium) as Chair and the representatives of Equatorial Guinea and Kuwait as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 733 (1992), the Security Council imposed a general and complete arms embargo on Somalia, and by its resolution 751 (1992), established a committee to oversee the implementation of the embargo. Subsequently, in its resolutions 1356 (2001), 1425 (2002), 1744 (2007), 1772 (2007), 1846 (2008), 1851 (2008), 1916 (2010), 2060 (2012), 2093 (2013), 2111 (2013), 2142 (2014), 2182 (2014), 2244 (2015), 2317 (2016), 2385 (2017), 2444 (2018) and 2498 (2019), the Council introduced exemptions to and further defined the scope of the embargo. In its resolution 2498 (2019), the Council consolidated and updated the provisions of the embargo, expressing its intention to ensure that the measure would enable the Federal Government of Somalia in the realization of its efforts to reconstruct the country, counter the threat of terrorism and tackle the flow of illegal arms and armed groups. The Council also imposed a ban on components for improvised explosive devices.
4. By its resolution 1425 (2002), the Security Council established the Panel of Experts on Somalia, which was succeeded by the Monitoring Group established by its resolution 1519 (2003). By paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 of its resolution 1844 (2008), the Council imposed targeted measures (a travel ban, an asset freeze and a targeted arms embargo) on individuals and entities designated by the Committee. In the same resolution, the Council also introduced certain exemptions to those measures. In its resolution 2036 (2012), the Council imposed a ban on the export of charcoal from Somalia and its direct or indirect import from Somalia, whether or not the charcoal originated in Somalia. In its resolution 2093 (2013), the Council partially lifted the arms embargo for the development of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia.
5. In 2014, the Security Council renewed the partial lifting of the arms embargo for the development of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia on two occasions: in resolution 2142 (2014), for a period of six months, and in resolution 2182 (2014), until 30 October 2015. In its resolution 2182 (2014), the Council authorized, for a period of 12 months, Member States acting nationally or through voluntary multinational naval partnerships, such as “combined maritime forces”, to interdict charcoal and arms being transported in violation of the sanctions measures in Somali territorial waters and on the high seas off the coast of Somalia, extending to and including the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf. The Council renewed the partial lifting of the arms embargo for the development of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia and the authorization for the maritime interdiction of arms and Somali charcoal in its resolutions 2244 (2015), 2317 (2016), 2385 (2017), 2444 (2018) and 2498 (2019), most recently until 15 November 2020.

6. The mandate of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, consisting of six experts and based in Nairobi, was established by the Security Council in its resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#) and extended until 15 December 2020 by the Council in its resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#).

7. Further background information on the Somalia sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

8. The Committee met five times in informal consultations, on 1 February, 18 April, 15 May and 3 and 15 October, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

9. During the informal consultations held on 1 February, the Chair introduced to the Committee the six newly appointed members of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, and the Coordinator of the Panel outlined some of the Panel's priorities.

10. During the informal consultations held on 18 April, the Committee received a briefing from the National Security Adviser to the President of the Federal Government of Somalia on issues linked to the sanctions regime.

11. During the informal consultations held on 15 May, the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts provided the Panel's midterm update to the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 54 of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#), and the Committee discussed the recommendations contained therein.

12. During the informal consultations held on 3 October, the Committee received a briefing from the Deputy Director of the Operations and Advocacy Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on the humanitarian situation in Somalia and impediments to the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

13. During the informal consultations held on 15 October, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel on its final report, submitted in accordance with paragraph 54 of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#), and discussed the recommendations contained therein. In those same informal consultations, the Committee also heard a briefing by the Head of the Global Maritime Crime Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

14. 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 1 February, 15 May and 15 October.

15. On 25 February, 26 June and 25 October, the Chair presented to the Security Council the 120-day briefings on the work of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 11 (g) of resolution [1844 \(2008\)](#). The briefing of 25 October was held in a public meeting (see [S/PV.8647](#)).

16. On 12 and 25 February and 8 May, respectively, in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#), the Committee amended its Implementation Assistance Notice No. 1 on the charcoal ban, its guidelines for the conduct of its work and its Implementation Assistance Notice No. 2 on the arms embargo.

17. The reports of the Federal Government of Somalia submitted to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 21 of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#) were circulated to the Committee on 19 March and 2 October, respectively.

18. The Committee sent 26 communications to 12 Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

19. Exemptions to the arms embargo on Somalia are contained in paragraphs 7, 10 (g) and 11 (a) of resolution [2111 \(2013\)](#), paragraph 4 of resolution [2142 \(2014\)](#) and paragraph 14 of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#). Requirements related to the partial lifting of the arms embargo are contained in paragraph 6 of resolution [2142 \(2014\)](#) and paragraph 24 of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#). The exemptions and the partial lifting are reaffirmed in paragraphs 9 to 18 and 35 of resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#).

20. Exemptions to the asset freeze on Somalia are contained in paragraph 4 of resolution [1844 \(2008\)](#).

21. Exemptions to the travel ban on Somalia are contained in paragraph 2 of resolution [1844 \(2008\)](#).

22. The Committee received 13 notifications pursuant to paragraph 10 (g) of resolution [2111 \(2013\)](#). The Committee also received nine notifications pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#), of which three were from the Federal Government of Somalia in accordance with paragraph 22 of the resolution. Furthermore, the Committee approved an exemption request pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution [2111 \(2013\)](#) and did not take a negative decision in connection with two exemption requests pursuant to paragraph 11 (a) of the resolution. The Committee also received communications from the Federal Government pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution [2142 \(2014\)](#).

23. Following the adoption of resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#), the Committee received three notifications pursuant to paragraph 11 of the resolution, which were from the Federal Government of Somalia in accordance with paragraph 13 of the resolution; the items reflected in one of the notifications were also notified by a Member State in accordance with paragraph 14 of the resolution. The Committee also received another notification pursuant to paragraph 10 (g) of resolution [2111 \(2013\)](#) as reaffirmed in paragraph 17 of resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#).

V. Sanctions list

24. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban, asset freeze and targeted arms embargo for the Somalia sanctions regime are set out in paragraph 8 of resolution [1844 \(2008\)](#), paragraph 1 of resolution [2002 \(2011\)](#), paragraph 23 of resolution [2036 \(2012\)](#), paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolution [2060 \(2012\)](#), paragraph 43 of resolution [2093 \(2013\)](#) and paragraph 50 of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

25. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 15 individuals and one entity on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Panel of Experts on Somalia

26. On 10 May, in accordance with paragraph 54 of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#), the Panel of Experts submitted its comprehensive midterm update to the Committee. On 27 September, in accordance with the same paragraph, the Panel provided its final report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on

8 November and issued as a document of the Council ([S/2019/858](#)). In accordance with its mandate, the Panel also provided monthly updates to the Committee.

27. On 16 December, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#) on 15 November, the Secretary-General appointed five individuals to serve on the Panel of Experts, with expertise in maritime/regional matters, armed groups/natural resources, armed groups, finance, and arms ([S/2019/977](#)). The mandate of the Panel expires on 15 December 2020.

28. The Panel of Experts, which is based in Kenya, conducted visits to Canada, Ethiopia, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, the Netherlands, Qatar, Seychelles, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America. In Somalia, in February 2019, members of the Panel undertook visits to Berbera, Boosaaso, Garoowe and Hargeysa.

29. In pursuance of its mandate, the Panel of Experts, through the Secretariat, sent 108 letters to 64 Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

30. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and 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.

31. 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 18 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 29 August notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Panel of Experts on Somalia and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. On 29 August, a vacancy announcement was also made available online at careers.un.org.

32. The Division continued to provide support to the Panel of Experts, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Panel's midterm update submitted to the Committee in May and its final report submitted in September to the Committee. The Secretariat convened a two-day inter-panel workshop, at which 60 experts representing 10 sanctions panels were invited to share experiences and good practices and to discuss issues of common interest. The Secretariat also organized an investigative techniques workshop, which was focused on investigative methods and tools for panel experts.

33. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions 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 sanctions 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 Security Council in paragraph 54 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#).

34. Pursuant to paragraph 32 of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#), the Secretariat conducted a technical assessment regarding the Somalia arms embargo, with options and recommendations for improving implementation (see [S/2019/616](#)). The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs led the assessment mission, from 22 to 28 June 2019, to Mogadishu and Nairobi. This was the second assessment of the Somalia arms embargo, the first having been conducted in 2014 (see [S/2014/243](#)), shortly after the partial lifting of the arms embargo in 2013 with the adoption of resolution [2093 \(2013\)](#).
