

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 9 June 2020 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 my 120-day briefing to the Security Council, prepared in accordance with paragraph 11 (g) of resolution 1844 (2008) (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve

Chair

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



**Briefing of the Chair of the Security Council Committee
pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia to the
Security Council on 9 June 2020**

1. As mandated by paragraph 11 (g) of resolution 1844 (2008), I have the honour to brief the Security Council in my capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia, covering the period from 28 February to 9 June 2020.

2. During the reporting period, Committee members met twice in the “informal informals” format by closed videoconference. On 29 April, they met to hear a briefing by the Mine Action Service, in which officials from the Federal Government of Somalia and the Panel of Experts also participated. On 27 May, they met to hear a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel’s midterm update and to share initial views on the recommendations contained therein. In addition to the submission of the midterm update, the Panel also submitted two monthly updates to the Committee since my last briefing.

3. During the informal discussion of 29 April and through documents shared with the Committee, the Mine Action Service briefed the Committee on, inter alia, improvised explosive device trends in Somalia and recommendations on the implementation of the newly imposed improvised explosive device components ban. With respect to Al-Shabaab’s increased use of homemade explosives since 2018, the Service was of the view that the continued effort to clear mines and unexploded remnants of war across Somalia had seemed to reduce the group’s access to military-grade explosives, thus apparently triggering the shift away from military-grade explosives. If the current chemicals used for Al-Shabaab’s homemade explosives became scarce, the group would shift to other sources of explosive materials or precursors, possibly through illicit smuggling. The Service encouraged the development of a coordinated approach to controlling the supply of improvised explosive device components through regional bodies and agreements, as well as donor support for strengthening the Somali National Army to counter the improvised explosive device threat. The Service also recommended continued sensitization of Member States regarding their obligations under the sanctions regime for Somalia.

4. Earlier, the Committee also tasked the Panel of Experts with preparing a draft implementation assistance notice that would provide guidance to all Member States on the implementation of the improvised explosive device components ban.

5. In her statement prepared for the informal discussion of 27 May, the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts highlighted four key areas of the Panel’s midterm update: the reset in relations with the Federal Government of Somalia; the threat posed by Al-Shabaab, in particular the group’s financial flows; the ban on the export of charcoal from Somalia; and potential consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. I would like to emphasize here that, during the informal discussion, all Committee members welcomed the resumption of cooperation and collaboration between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Panel and they looked forward to the return of all Panel members to Somalia once the COVID-19 travel restrictions have been lifted.

6. The Committee is currently considering the six recommendations contained in the Panel’s midterm update. Broadly speaking, these pertain to threats to peace and security in Somalia, particularly Al-Shabaab’s military and financial capabilities; the implementation of the arms embargo through further improvement in weapons and ammunition management; and international humanitarian law issues, including strengthening the protection of civilians.

7. In a previous briefing, I had referred to a letter received from a Member State on confidentiality issues, on which a reply was still pending. The Committee dispatched the reply in the current reporting period. The Committee also received another letter, with reference to the work of the predecessor of the Panel of Experts, the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group, which it is currently considering.

8. I will now summarize the statistics with regard to arms embargo exemption requests and notifications. The Committee approved an exemption request pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 13 of resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#) submitted by the Federal Government of Somalia. The Committee received six advance delivery notifications pursuant to paragraphs 11 and 13 of the same resolution from the Federal Government of Somalia, and it also received an advance delivery notification from the supplying Member State pursuant to paragraphs 11 and 14 of the resolution. The Committee further received two post-delivery notifications pursuant to paragraph 16 of the resolution, submitted by the Federal Government of Somalia. Lastly, the Committee received an advance delivery notification from a supplying Member State in accordance with paragraph 17 of the resolution.

9. Finally, following the resignation of a member of the Panel of Experts owing to personal and professional considerations, a new expert was appointed by the Secretary-General on 29 May 2020.
