



UN sanctions and arms embargoes: relevant actors and bodies

Various UN sanctions and arms embargoes actors/bodies are responsible for adopting and enforcing sanctions.

As the UN body responsible for peace and security, the Security Council adopts sanctions.

Implementation responsibilities are delegated to sanctions committees and the UN Secretariat ('Sanctions Branch').

Sanctions committees are charged with administering UN sanctions, including UN arms embargoes. These committees are the main bodies tasked with monitoring member states' compliance with UN Security Council sanctions resolutions. In addition, they are mandated to identify violations of sanctions resolutions; to recommend to the Security Council ways to improve follow-up action, where needed; and to maintain lists of sanctioned individuals and entities. A UN member state can ask to be invited to appear before a sanctions committee.

The Sanctions Branch provides substantive, technical, and administrative support to the sanctions committees. It also has administrative oversight over the work of the panels of experts and is responsible for supporting them at all stages of their mandates.

Panels of experts and monitoring mechanisms, which the Security Council establishes for a limited period of time, are independent affiliates to sanctions committees. Their work is conducted with broad independence in order to support the monitoring role of the sanctions committees.

Panels of experts are teams of independent consultants recruited to monitor the implementation of targeted sanctions and provide information in critical and sensitive areas. They gather, examine, and analyse information on cases of non-compliance. Among other things, they are expected to conduct investigations and fieldwork, including in cooperation with government officials and other experts; to consult with relevant stakeholders; and to make recommendations on strengthening the implementation of UN sanctions. Panels of experts typically deliver final reports and mid-term reports to the relevant sanctions committee, as well as confidential monthly reports.

As regards UN sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Panel of Experts has also assisted the Sanctions Committee in the preparation of implementation assistance notices and has worked to increase the number and quality of national implementation reports.

Once an expert group has submitted its conclusions and recommendations to the relevant sanctions committee, responsibility for taking action on the report's recommendations rests with the committee.