



Statement on behalf of the organizers of the High Level Review of UN Sanctions

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Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of myself and Loraine Rickard-Martin of Compliance and Capacity International, and our colleague Sue Eckert of the Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs at Brown University, we are pleased to present the Compendium on the High Level Review of UN Sanctions. Our intention in organizing this initiative was to create a transformational process that would bring together and benefit the range of implementation actors to create broader recognition of the importance of UN sanctions and how they have changed from even a few years ago.

Over the course of the past 18 months, much has been achieved as the aggregated output of the three working groups in the Compendium demonstrates. The 150 recommendations, however, are not only an indicator of the creativity and commitment of the participants - they also signal the need for continued improvement and reform. I want to focus on the work that lies ahead, and how we can create new and innovative capabilities to advance international peace and security through more effective implementation of UN sanctions. Enhancing implementation should be an ongoing, shared responsibility, led by Member States and not simply delegated to the Secretariat, as sanctions are always part of broader conflict resolution policies whose effectiveness rarely if ever depends on sanctions alone.

Nevertheless, the continued need for adaptive, innovative, and *effective* sanctions is evident when the 16 UN sanctions regimes currently in place still do not necessarily respond to all or to the most dangerous challenges to international peace and security. The original vision of the HLR therefore remains valid: finding ways to enhance the effective implementation of sanctions are among the most efficient means of promoting international peace and security.

I want to supplement the sponsors' statements this afternoon by highlighting three HLR issues which warrant further attention.

The first is the need to focus on emerging threats to meet today's international challenges. When we started the HLR process, we focused on traditional challenges related to security, armed conflict, and human rights atrocities destabilizing regions. Now, rapidly expanding virtual threats expose new vulnerabilities: cyber mercenaries including those of and serving non-state-actors such as the Islamic State attack not only critical infrastructures of States, but also the integrity of corporations and our own individual privacy, all the while recruiting combatants, raising funds, procuring arms and inciting hate. Such transnational threats should be addressed through multilateral consensus, including appropriate coercive measures against those responsible for abuses of cyberspace affecting international peace and security.

Secondly, the need for a better resourced and competent UN sanctions system supported by the Secretariat and its various branches has been a core theme of the three HLR working groups. DPA as the lead agency on sanctions, created the interagency working group to coordinate input into the HLR which has already resulted in important changes. Other bodies, including some SRSGs and Secretariat branches, sometimes continue to be confronted with what they perceive to be conflicting mandates, and the impression sanctions implementation is optional, adding to the considerable challenges the Secretariat must still overcome. Resource constraints, the need for enhanced training, and performance measures of its own staff represent ongoing requirements, aside from necessary support to sanctions committee chairs and expert groups. Better calibrated assistance to ensure the independence of the work of expert groups and the Ombudsperson are critical for effective sanctions' monitoring, and should not be inhibited by managerial cost-cutting or other bureaucratic objectives.

Finally, an issue raised in all working groups and which merits attention at the highest levels is the fundamental requirement for capacity building assistance to support Member States' implementation of sanctions. From border control, to export controls on dual-use products and arms, to financial sanctions, there is a significant need for technical assistance to support capacity in states and the private sector to implement UN sanctions. Capacity assistance was broadly supported by the HLR but perhaps it is also the hardest to turn into reality. Future work will focus on fleshing out possible solutions with States, international organizations and the private sector perhaps interested in pursuing, according the principles and objectives that the Review has helped to identify. In the meantime we will continue to maintain the HLR-UNSanctions.org website, which includes the HLR Compendium in all UN languages.

Thank you for your attention and support of the High Level Review of UN Sanctions.
