

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

CHAIR OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1533 (2004)

CONCERNING THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

AT THE

DRC SANCTIONS

30TH SEPTEMBER 2024

(PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

Mr. President,

Distinguished Colleagues,

I have the honour to deliver a statement in my capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is my intention to provide an overview of the work of the Committee since the last briefing from my predecessor to the Council on 28 September 2023.

Mr. President,

Since the last briefing of my predecessor, the Committee held three informal consultations in the remainder of 2023 and four informal consultations to date in 2024.

During the meeting held on **10 October 2023**, the Committee heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on the situation of children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During the meeting held on 19 October 2023, the Committee received a briefing by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 2664 (2022).

During the meeting held on **07 December 2023**, the Coordinator of the Group of Experts provided an overview of the main findings and recommendations contained in the Group's midterm report (\$/2023/990), following which Committee members discussed the findings and recommendations contained therein.

Committee members also met in one "informal informals" at the Permanent Mission of Gabon on 15 December 2023, with the Senior Official of the DRC Follow-on Mechanism, Mr. Petit. I would like to reiterate that the Committee continues to support the Mechanism, which provides assistance to the Government of the DRC in its investigations into the March 2017 murders of two former members of the

Group of Experts, Zaida Catalán and Michael Sharp, and the four Congolese accompanying the experts.

Mr. President,

Let me now turn to the informal consultations held to date in 2024.

During the meeting held with regional and other interested States on 19 February, the Coordinator of the Group of Experts provided an overview of the main findings and recommendations contained in the midterm report, following which a number of Committee members and regional States shared their views in connection with the report.

During the meeting of **24 May**, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Group of Experts regarding the Group's final report, document \$/2024/432, and discussed the findings and recommendations contained therein.

During the meeting of **03 June**, the Committee heard briefings by the Executive Secretary of the

International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), a representative of the Centre for Responsible Business Conduct of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and representatives of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) on natural resources.

During the meeting held with regional and other interested States on 26 July, the Coordinator of the Group of Experts provided an overview of the main findings and recommendations contained in the final report, following which a number of Committee members and regional States shared their views in connection with the report.

During the meeting of **16 September**, the Committee heard a presentation from the Coordinator of the Group of Experts outlining the Group's workplan for its current mandate ending 1 August 2025, in line with Council resolution 2738 (2024) adopted on 27 June 2024.

Committee members also met in three "informal informals" at the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone on **06 March and 23 April 2024** with the Senior Official of the DRC Follow-on Mechanism, Mr. Petit.

In accordance with paragraph 104 of the annex to the Note by the President of the Security Council contained in document <u>S/2017/507</u>, the Committee issued eight press releases containing a brief summary of the informal consultations held, respectively, on 10 October, 19 October and 07 December 2023, and 19 February, 24 May, 03 June, 26 July and 16 September 2024.

Thank you, Mr. President.