



Kingdom of the Netherlands

[check against delivery]

Statement by H.E. Mr. Karel J.G. van Oosterom

Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations

New York, 26 October 2018



Distinguished fellow Ambassadors, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Why KNL is co-sponsor

During the Kingdom of the Netherlands' stint as a Security Council member this year, our aim has been to make the Security Council more effective.

A large part of the work of the Security Council is executed by its subsidiary organs such as the sanctions committees, which form a vast array of bodies that differ in working methods, duration and complexity in mandates.

The development of a best practices guide for incoming chairs and members of sanctions committees, and a guide for UN sanctions monitoring experts and their coordinators, will shed light on the sanctions committees' existence and make their working methods and outcomes more transparent.

Importantly, the two guides will provide incoming Chairs, delegations and experts with a practical tool to adequately fulfill their respective roles in the sanctions committees, which ultimately results in a more efficient and effective Security Council.

This is why the Kingdom of the Netherlands, together with Australia, Belgium and Sweden, is a proud co-sponsor of the initiative to develop these two guides.

KNLs broader efforts to lift subsidiary organs 'out of the shadow'

Our participation in the realization of the two best practices guides is fully in line with our general efforts to lift subsidiary Security Council bodies out of the shadows and add transparency to their workings.

One prime example of our efforts in this respect are the substantial investments our government has made into a complete overhaul of the website of the Security Council Affairs Division, which provides various forms of support to subsidiary bodies established by the Security Council and the member states that chair them.

The new website will contain a renewed and easy accessible search engine. Information on resolutions, mandates and subsidiary bodies in general will be more easy to find and compare.

We fully expect that these important improvements will make the work of Security Council and its subsidiary bodies more accessible to all.

On the sanctions committee level, as the current chair of the 1718 sanctions committee on the DPRK, we also aim for the fullest amount of transparency possible, both to the full UN membership and beyond.

For example, we have initiated the drafting and online publication of practical guidelines for member states, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to submit a request to deliver humanitarian assistance to the DPRK, which the relevant resolutions explicitly allow for.

Unlike before, these actors know now exactly how to submit such a request, in which format, and through which channels.

Ultimately, these kind of efforts result in enhanced transparency and better execution of the sanctions regime.

Challenges experienced as a chair

The aforementioned efforts are not in the least inspired by my own experiences starting out as chair of the DPRK sanctions committee.

I have experienced first-hand the importance and complexity of the work of these subsidiary organs and the value of showing up well prepared for the job.

Despite the invaluable introductory briefings to the work of the sanctions committees from the Security Council Affairs Division, effectively chairing a sanctions committee requires additional efforts in time, knowledge and resources.

Incoming Security Council members – the so called “E10” – carry a heavy burden in that sense.

Aside from the pressures of the regular Security Council work, they will also be assigned the highly responsible task of chairing a sanctions committee.

In my experience, this will require them to free up capacity and expertise, in capital as well as at the mission.

They should furthermore expect a substantial familiarization period, during which they gain essential knowledge of the written and unwritten rules of chairing a sanctions committee.

How the Guides will help address these challenges

The best practices guides will help incoming Security Council members to address these challenges.

The guides will provide an easily accessible “who, what, where” for newcomers to the sanctions regime and offer inclusive, integrated and transparent working methods.

The broad variety of topics covered by the guides range from committee tasks and obligations, procedures, model language and responsibilities for chair persons, to working relations with the Permanent Security Council members, the Secretariat, and between committees and experts groups.

Additionally, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has ensured that throughout the drafting of the guides special attention is paid to gender issues related to the sanctions committees.

Currently, the UN sanctions system does not fulfill its potential as protective and preventive mechanism against the escalation of gender-based and sexual violence. Sanctions actors can improve this situation, starting by, for example, improving their own gender-balance.

Call to participate in the consultations

In the coming weeks, several consultation rounds will be held to gain input from former and current chairs, E10 delegations and States affected by sanctions.

These discussions will form the basis of the first best practice guide for incoming chairs and delegations, which will be published before the end of this year.

I count on and encourage all of you present today to actively participate in these consultations and help us create guides that adequately address the needs of those involved in the work of the sanctions committees and the expert groups, either now or in the future.

I thank you in advance for your interest and participation.