

Overview of current sanctions measures against Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

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Table of Contents

1. United Nations (UN) sanctions against Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	1
2. United States (US) sanctions against Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	3
3. European Union (EU) sanctions against Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	3
4. United Kingdom (UK) sanctions against Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	4

1. United Nations (UN) sanctions against Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

ARMS EMBARGO

- All Member States are required to take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer, from their territories or by their nationals, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and any related materiel, and the provision of any assistance, advice or training related to military activities, including financing and financial assistance, to all non-governmental entities and individuals operating in the territory of the DRC (not the Government of the DRC).
- As set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 2667 (2022) and reaffirmed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 2738 (2024), there is no longer a requirement for Member States to notify to the Committee any shipment of arms and related materiel to the DRC Government, or any provision to the DRC Government of assistance, advice or training related to military activities in the DRC.
- As set out in paragraph 3 of resolution 2667 (2022), the Government of the DRC is requested “to provide a confidential report to the Security Council no later than 31 May 2023 detailing its efforts to ensure the safe and effective management, storage, marking, monitoring and security of the national stockpiles of weapons and ammunition, as well as efforts to fight arms trafficking and diversion.”.

TRAVEL BAN

All Member States are required to take the necessary measures to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of all persons designated by the Committee as acting in violation of the arms

embargo; political and military leaders of foreign armed groups who impede the disarmament and the voluntary repatriation or resettlement of combatants belonging to those groups; political and military leaders of Congolese militias receiving support from outside the DRC who impede the participation of their combatants in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes; political and military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflict, and individuals committing serious violations of international law involving the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and forced displacement; individuals obstructing the access to or distribution of humanitarian assistance in the eastern part of the DRC, as well as individuals or entities supporting the illegal armed groups in eastern DRC through the illicit trade of natural resources.

ASSETS FREEZE

All Member States are required to freeze the funds, other financial assets and economic resources which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by persons designated by the Committee, or that are held by entities owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by any persons acting on their behalf or at their direction; by political and military leaders of foreign armed groups who impede the disarmament and the voluntary repatriation or resettlement of combatants belonging to those groups; political and military leaders of Congolese militias receiving support from outside the DRC who impede the participation of their combatants in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes; political and military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflict, and individuals committing serious violations of international law involving the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and forced displacement; individuals obstructing the access to or distribution of humanitarian assistance in the eastern part of the DRC, as well as individuals or entities supporting the illegal armed groups in eastern DRC through the illicit trade of natural resources.

All Member States are required to ensure that no funds, financial assets or economic resources are made available by their nationals or by any persons within their territories, to or for the benefit of such persons or entities.

TRANSPORT

Decides that all governments in the region, and in particular those of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of States bordering Ituri and the Kivus, shall take the necessary measures: (a) To ensure that aircraft operate in the region in accordance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation, signed in Chicago on 7 December 1944, in particular by verifying the validity of documents carried in aircraft and the licenses of pilots; (b) To prohibit immediately in their respective territories operation of any aircraft inconsistent with the conditions in that Convention or the standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, in particular with respect to the use of falsified or out-of-date documents, to notify the Committee of the measures they take in this regard.

CUSTOMS

Decides that the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the one hand, and those of

States bordering Ituri and the Kivus on the other hand, shall take the necessary measures: (a) To strengthen, as far as each of them is concerned, customs controls on the borders between Ituri or the Kivus and the neighbouring States; (b) To ensure that all means of transport on their respective territories will not be used in violation of the measures taken by Member States in accordance with paragraph 1 above, and notify the Committee of such actions.

SOURCE: <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1533>

2. United States (US) sanctions against Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

ARMS EMBARGO

Policy of denial for license applications for the export or reexport to Iraq or transfer within Iraq of any item controlled on the Commerce Control List for UN reasons.

ASSETS FREEZE

- Current DRC sanctions block the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to E.O. 13413 (the Annex) as well as specific individuals and entities determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State.
- Unless otherwise authorized or exempt, transactions by U.S. persons, or in or involving the United States, are prohibited if they involve transferring, paying, exporting, withdrawing, or otherwise dealing in the property or interests in property of an entity or individual listed on the SDN List. The property and interests in property of an entity that is 50 percent or more directly or indirectly owned, whether individually or in the aggregate, by one or more persons on the SDN List are also blocked, regardless of whether the entity itself is listed.

SOURCE:

<https://ofac.treasury.gov/sanctions-programs-and-country-information/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-related-sanctions> &
<https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/documents/regulations-docs/2383-supplement-no-1-to-part-738/file>

3. European Union (EU) sanctions against Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

ARMS EMBARGO

The direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer of arms and any related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment and spare parts

for the aforementioned to all non-governmental entities and individuals operating in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by nationals of Member States or from the territories of Member States, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, including technical assistance, brokering services, provide financing or financial assistance, or other related services.

TRAVEL BAN

Member States shall take the necessary measures to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of listed persons.

ASSETS FREEZE

All funds and economic resources belonging to, owned, held or controlled by listed natural or legal persons, entities or bodies shall be frozen.

No funds or economic resources shall be made available directly or indirectly to or for the benefit of the listed natural or legal persons, entities or bodies listed.

SOURCE:

<https://www.sanctionsmap.eu/#/main/details/11/?search=%7B%22value%22:%22%22,%22searchType%22:%7B%7D%7D>

4. United Kingdom (UK) sanctions against Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 give effect to the UK's obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1807 (2008).

PROHIBITIONS ON FINANCE

- Asset freeze in relation to designated persons
- Prohibition to make funds available to, or for the benefit of, designated persons
- Prohibition to make economic resources available to, or for the benefit of, designated persons
- Prohibition on circumventing

DIRECTOR DISQUALIFICATION SANCTIONS

PROHIBITIONS ON IMMIGRATION

- Refusal of leave to enter and/or remain in the United Kingdom
- Cancelling a persons leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom

PROHIBITIONS ON TRADE

- Arms embargo - prohibition on export, supply, delivery, making available, transfer, technical assistance, financial services, brokering services in relation to military goods and military technology
- Prohibition on enabling or facilitating the conduct of armed hostilities
- Prohibition on circumventing

SOURCE:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-sanctions-on-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo>

5. Canada sanctions against Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Sanctions related to Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) were enacted under the United Nations Act to give effect to United Nations Security Council resolutions. Subject to certain exceptions, the measures imposed against the DRC include:

ARMS EMBARGO

- Prohibition on the export of arms and related materiel to any person in the territory of the DRC.
- Prohibition on the provision, to any person in the DRC, of technical and financial assistance related to military activities.

FINANCIAL RESTRICTIONS

Asset freeze against persons designated by the UN committee established by Resolution 1533 (2004) to oversee the sanctions against the DRC (the 1533 Committee).

TRAVEL BAN

Travel ban against persons designated by the 1533 Committee.

SOURCE:

https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/sanctions/drc-rdc.aspx?lang=eng