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Annual Open Briefing

Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General United Nations Security Council Sanctions Issues established pursuant to resolution 2744 (2024)

New York, 22 December 2025

Joint Statement delivered by Oliver Hoehne, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland

Dear Co-Chairs

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and my own country Switzerland.

We thank the Co-Chairs of the Informal Working Group for organizing this open briefing and for offering this valuable opportunity for the wider membership to engage. We welcome that the Group was able to begin its work. We are heartened to note that the IWG was able to achieve consensus on guidelines for the work of the Focal Point for De-listing, with a view to embed the new delisting procedure across all sanctions regimes. We encourage the respective sanctions committees to reflect these guidelines into their own working guidelines at the earliest.

We are strongly committed to the effective implementation of UN Security Council sanctions regimes, which constitute an important tool to address threats to international peace and security. The effectiveness and legitimacy of UN sanctions go hand in hand with respect for international due process standards. As long as national and regional courts consider United Nations sanctions to fall short of these standards, national authorities may find themselves legally unable to implement them fully at the national level. Therefore, our countries have long supported efforts to improve due process for individuals, undertakings or entities seeking delisting from UN sanctions lists.

In July 2024, the Security Council took an important step in that direction by unanimously adopting Resolution 2744 (2024), which significantly enhanced the mandate of the Focal Point for De-listing. It

**Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès des Nations Unies
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations**

633 Third Avenue, 29th floor, New York, NY 10017-6706
Tél. +1 212 286 1540, fax +1 212 286 1555, www.dfae.admin.ch/missny

also requested the Secretary-General to appoint this Focal Point within three months of the adoption of the resolution.

Our countries take note with concern that more than 16 months later, a Focal Point is yet to be appointed. This vacancy negatively impacts the due process rights of designated individuals and entities on UN sanctions lists. It also runs counter to the efforts of the Security Council to strengthen due process and to ensure that fair and clear procedures exist for listing and de-listing.

We therefore urge the Security Council to strengthen and accelerate its efforts with a view to the appointment of a consensual Focal Point. We also encourage the Co-Chairs of the Working Group to undertake such further consultations as may facilitate consensus, in line with the Group's terms of reference. Finally, we call on the Secretariat to do everything in its power to facilitate the swift appointment of a Focal Point.

Once a Focal Point has taken up his or her tasks, the Informal Working Group, as per its mandate, will also play a key role in examining the Focal Point's mechanism with a view to monitoring and improving its operations. Our countries stand ready to cooperate with the Informal Working Group in this regard. In order to enable the Focal Point to effectively implement its mandate, we believe it will be essential to ensure its operational independence and institutional autonomy, alongside with an independent status, effective support structures, budgetary independence and adequate resources.

We remain committed to supporting efforts to improve due process in UN sanctions regimes, in order to ensure that sanctions continue to be an effective tool for the Security Council in contributing to international peace and security.

We look forward to continuing and deepening the dialogue on these important matters.

I thank you.