

United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen

Terms of Reference



Introduction

1. The current conflict in Yemen has resulted in a widespread humanitarian crisis, and has left 80 per cent of the population (21.1 million people) in need of some form of assistance. The impediments on commercial imports to Yemen have led to a severe lack of basic services and goods.

Mandate

2. Pursuant to a request by the Government of Yemen on 6 August 2015, and in line with Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015), the Secretary General's letter to the Government of Yemen dated 11 August 2015 agreed to institute a United Nations verification and inspection mechanism (hereafter "UNVIM") with the aim of facilitating the unimpeded flow of commercial items to Yemen and to revive the economy of the country.
3. UNVIM shall operate as an integral part of United Nations support and facilitation of commercial imports and humanitarian assistance to alleviate the plight of the population in Yemen, under the auspices of a designated UN official and shall in no way infringe upon the authority of the legitimate Government of Yemen, as well as the unity, sovereignty, independence or territorial integrity of the Republic of Yemen, or of any other States in the region.

UNVIM Responsibilities

4. In performing its role, UNVIM will provide support to the legitimate Government of Yemen for verification and inspection of the following type of shipments intended for Yemeni ports that are not under the control of the legitimate Government of Yemen:
 - a. Commercial shipments of goods purchased by Yemen-based entities intended for sale in Yemen; and
 - b. Shipment of bilateral assistance from any Member State.
5. Member States and/or shipping companies are requested to report UNVIM all respective planned commercial and bilateral shipping activities and/or contracts for goods destined for Yemen in order to obtain clearance and to facilitate access to Yemeni ports.
6. UNVIM will not provide support to the verification and inspection conducted by Member States with respect to shipments other than those mentioned in paragraph 4 above. Those outside the scope of these terms of reference are, for example:
 - a. Cargo ships that are destined to ports under the control of the Government of Yemen such as Aden;
 - b. Ships operated by or chartered by the United Nations or international humanitarian organizations;
 - c. Smaller vessels (up to 100 metric tons) and dhows; and
 - d. Cargo transported by air or land.

Standing Operating Procedures

7. UNVIM's verification, monitoring and inspection processes to be followed by Member States and/or shipping companies are outlined in the UNVIM Standard Operation Procedures.

Reporting

8. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2216 (2015), activities pertaining to inspections will be reported to the UN Sanctions Committee by the respective Member States. If prohibited items are found, a written report will be provided to the Sanctions Committee within 30 days by respective Member State. In addition, UNVIM will submit a monthly report to UN Headquarters.