



Sanctions Practitioners  
Compliance Trainers  
Due Diligence Advisors

# Compliance and Capacity International, LLC

## **Proposal for a United Nations Sanctions Implementation Task Force (SITF)**

Loraine Rickard-Martin  
Rico Carisch

10/1 /2010

---

The responsibility for implementing sanctions imposed by the Security Council in response to a range of international peace and security issues is borne by the UN Secretariat, UN agencies and other U.N. bodies, and Member States. Currently, the role of the Secretariat includes the provision of substantive and other support to Sanctions Committees, to expert panels and peacekeeping missions mandated by the Council to monitor compliance with sanctions.

Effective sanctions implementation requires that all U.N. bodies share a common understanding of their role and obligations according to a unified operational sanctions policy that includes a system-wide information, coordination, and education and training strategy. Such a unified policy, which currently does not exist, would form the basis for greater professionalism and leadership authority in coordinating implementation among various UN actors and guiding monitoring and compliance with sanctions measures.

Currently, there is no U.N. office coordinating system-wide activities related to sanctions implementation. The Sanctions Branch of the Department of Political Affairs, which performs basic support services for Sanctions Committees and expert panels, has neither the capability nor the weight within the U.N. hierarchy to coordinate and guide comprehensively all sanctions policy and implementation issues throughout the UN-system. This important function must be assigned to a senior UN official with a rank of at least Assistant-Secretary-General at the head of a Sanctions Implementation Task Force (SITF) consisting of representatives of all relevant U.N. bodies.

This paper proposes that the Secretary-General commission a panel of independent sanctions expert practitioners and academics to devise a unified sanctions policy, in consultation with the senior leadership of the UN system and with representatives of the Security Council, and submit its recommendations to the Secretary-General for approval within a specified time-frame.

The resulting unified sanctions policy should clearly demonstrate the compatibility and shared goals of sanctions with other Security Council mandates and those of other U.N. bodies and empower all relevant bodies to enhance the implementation, monitoring and enforcement of sanctions as a vital element in mediation, peace- and capacity-building, and include the following:

1. A system-wide information strategy that provides clear, understandable information aimed at all levels of sanctions implementation regarding the goals and purposes of sanctions, including all UN agencies, UN information centres, peacekeeping missions and the populations of target countries.
2. A strategy for cooperation and coordination of all relevant U.N. bodies involved in sanctions implementation, including Secretariat departments, expert groups; peacekeeping missions; SRSGs, mediators, and others
3. A comprehensive education and training programme for various sanctions actors focused on the role of sanctions in a holistic approach to conflict resolution, including members of the Secretariat and other U.N. bodies, SRSGs, mediators, expert group members, incoming Security Council members and Committee chairpersons, and Member States.

The proposed SITF will implement the above unified sanctions policy and will catalyze and mobilize the sanctions efforts of various U.N. system entities to enhance sanctions implementation, involving outreach to international organizations and civil society, developing partnerships with the private sector in effective sanctions implementation, and liaising with the Security Council and Sanctions Committees. The SITF will organize its work through Working Groups and related projects and initiatives that add value to effective sanctions implementation.

**SITF entities:**

**Secretariat**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
Department of Political Affairs (DPA)  
Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)  
Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)  
Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)  
Office of the Legal Counsel (OLA)  
Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA)

**To be invited to participate**

UN agencies  
Existing Expert Panels of all Sanctions Committees  
Special Representatives of the Secretary-General  
Committee Chairpersons