

serves its citizens, how businesses serve their customers, and how the public engages in activism.

□ 1715

The responses to the Boston Marathon bombings and Hurricane Sandy, which devastated my State, underscores the power and the potential of social media. After each of these devastating events, we saw the Internet used to galvanize ordinary citizens into action.

In the wake of the Boston bombings, Boston residents used Google Docs to let marathoners know that their homes were open to those who were unable to return to their hotels. After Hurricane Sandy, survivors posted the horrific images of homes washed away on Twitter and Facebook to help the world understand the strength of the storm. Survivors also used social media to reconnect with loved ones and to share information about which gas stations, grocery stores, and pharmacies were open.

In my district, the local utility PSE&G used social media to communicate with customers about how to prepare for the storm to mitigate damage and about power restoration afterwards. Public Service Electric and Gas' use of social media was so effective that it was recognized by J.D. Power and Associates as a "best practice." And CS Week, a nonprofit that focuses on customer service for utilities, gave PSE&G an award for innovation and customer service.

Although PSE&G's use of social media was incredibly successful, there were important lessons learned that should be shared among organizations utilizing social media during a disaster response. For example, PSE&G exceeded the allowable number of tweets per day and needed to reach out to Twitter leadership for a temporary expansion of capacity. In addition to spikes in social media use during the disaster, PSE&G learned important lessons related to the tone of communications and the demand for information during a disaster.

H.R. 4263 would authorize the Social Media Working Group that sits with the Science and Technology Directorate to facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned related to the use of social media during disasters. The measure would also ensure that the Federal Government and first responders continue to fully utilize the capabilities of the Internet and social media to communicate with more people during disasters.

I would like to congratulate Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS on the success of her efforts to ensure the way government officials and first responders communicate with the public before, during, and after disaster strikes keeps pace with evolving technology.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4263.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the rise in the use of social media both before, during, and after disasters. This legislation will help to ensure we are leveraging best practices, sharing and incorporating lessons learned for the use of social media in this area.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 4263, "The Social Media Working Group Act of 2014," would establish within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) a social media working group.

The Social Media Working Group would provide guidance and best practices to the emergency preparedness and response community on the use of social media technologies before, during, and after a terrorist attack.

Today, people are relying more on Internet enabled communications to engage and be engaged in communications.

Since September 11, 2001, our nation has committed resources toward the preparation of our first responders and citizens in preventing, mitigating and responding to terrorist events.

As these efforts continue, we must keep up with the times. Part of that requires that Congress makes sure that the Department of Homeland Security and especially the Federal Emergency Management Agency can engage citizens in ways that they receive and send information.

In 2012, smartphones, most particularly phones running Apple Computer's iOS and the open source Android operating system, accounted for at least 40 percent of the mobile devices used in the United States.

In the first quarter of 2012, mobile phone consumers spent over \$109 billion, while consumers of landline-telephone service spent \$64.4 billion.

The Federal Communication Commission reports that this trend is expected accelerate as United States consumers participate in a worldwide trend towards mobile communication devices and away from traditional means of receiving and sending information.

Electronic tablet computers and e-readers, the other fully enabled portable Internet devices, smartphones are increasingly a resource for people to access information, share content, and communicate their views.

Social media is quickly emerging as a major source of information that citizens rely upon to receive news and engage government.

The number of people using social networking sites has nearly doubled since 2008.

In a 2011, a Pew Internet Center Research Project reported that 79 percent of American adults said they used the Internet and 59 percent of all Internet users say they use at least one of social networking service, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or Instagram.

The reasons for supporting this bill are obvious and I ask my colleagues in the House to vote for its passage.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act.

Since I arrived in Congress, I have seen the destruction caused by man-made and natural disasters.

From the September 11th attacks—to Hurricane Katrina—to the mass shootings that have devastated communities across America, one truism that has repeatedly been identified is that early alerts and timely information saves lives.

Toward that end, the Committee on Homeland Security has worked hard to support the Department's efforts to harness all means of communication to ensure that that public can take appropriate action before, during, and after disaster strikes.

To date, Federal efforts have focused on the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, and the Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System.

But, as we have seen during recent disasters, social media allows the government and private sector to disseminate useful information to hundreds of thousands of people.

I support the innovative use of social media in disaster preparedness and response because it has the ability to make more people safer, faster.

It can also help first responders work more quickly and more efficiently.

That said, we must work to implement practices to ensure that social media is used appropriately and effectively, and that the information distributed is reliable.

It is critical that information after a disaster must be accurate. There needs to be guidance and policies in place to ensure that widely-distributed disaster-related information is accurate, or to correct the information when it is not.

I am hopeful that H.R. 4263 would provide a forum for government officials and the private sector to come together to address this and other challenges related to the use of social media during disasters and to share best practices.

I congratulate Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS and Ranking Member PAYNE, Jr. on their work to ensure that government officials and first responders take full advantage of the technology available to communicate with the public during a disaster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4263, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4289) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable

communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4289

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act” or the “DHS Interoperable Communications Act”.

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES IN RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4) of subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including policies and directives to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among the components of the Department”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) **INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘interoperable communications’ means the ability of components of the Department to communicate with each other as necessary, utilizing information technology systems and radio communications systems to exchange voice, data, and video in real time, as necessary, for acts of terrorism, daily operations, planned events, and emergencies.”.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a strategy, which shall be updated as necessary, for achieving and maintaining interoperable communications (as such term is defined in subsection (d) of section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act) among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, including for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies, with corresponding milestones, that includes, at a minimum the following:

(1) An assessment of interoperability gaps in radio communications among the components of the Department, as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Information on efforts and activities, including current and planned policies, directives, and training, of the Department since November 1, 2012, to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among the components of the Department, and planned efforts and activities of the Department to achieve and maintain such interoperable communications.

(3) An assessment of obstacles and challenges to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department.

(4) Information on, and an assessment of, the adequacy of mechanisms available to the Under Secretary for Management to enforce and compel compliance with interoperable communications policies and directives of the Department.

(5) Guidance provided to the components of the Department to implement interoperable communications policies and directives of the Department.

(6) The total amount of funds expended by the Department since November 1, 2012, and

projected future expenditures, to achieve interoperable communications, including on equipment, infrastructure, and maintenance.

(7) Dates upon which Department-wide interoperability is projected to be achieved for voice, data, and video communications, respectively, and interim milestones that correspond to the achievement of each such mode of communication.

(b) **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL.**—Together with the strategy required under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate information on any intra-agency effort or task force that has been delegated certain responsibilities by the Under Secretary relating to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department by the dates referred to in paragraph (9) of subsection (a), and on who, within each such component, is responsible for implementing policies and directives issued by the Under Secretary to so achieve and maintain such interoperable communications.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 220 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and biannually thereafter, the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the status of efforts, since the issuance of the strategy required under section 3, to implement such strategy, including the following:

(1) Progress on each interim milestone referred to in paragraph (9) of subsection (a) toward achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department.

(2) Information on any policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary.

(3) An assessment of the level of compliance, adoption, and participation among the components of the Department with the policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among such components.

(4) Information on any additional resources or authorities needed by the Under Secretary.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4289, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey and the rank-

ing member of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, Mr. PAYNE. I am happy to be an original cosponsor of this important legislation, which the Committee on Homeland Security also approved last month by a bipartisan voice vote.

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to include, among the responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security's Under Secretary for Management, achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the Department's components.

H.R. 4289 addresses the findings and recommendations of a November 2012 DHS Office of Inspector General report, which stated that the Department does not have the appropriate oversight or governance structure to ensure communications interoperability among its own components.

The Department has been in the forefront on working with stakeholders to provide our Nation's first responders with the resources and tools needed to have effective interoperable communications. Now the Department needs to practice what they preach. It is vital that the Department's own components are able to effectively communicate day to day and, most importantly, during emergencies.

In order to ensure the Department is taking the necessary steps to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities, H.R. 4289 requires the Department's Under Secretary for Management to submit an interoperable communications strategy to the Department of Homeland Security no later than 120 days after enactment.

I applaud the ranking member for his work and leadership on bringing this to the floor.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 4289, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.

Mr. Speaker, when I began my work on this subcommittee last year, I was shocked to learn how much money had been spent on interoperable communications since the September 11 terrorist attacks. Nationwide, we have spent over \$13 billion to achieve interoperable communications at the State and local level, and we are not there yet.

Given the degree of attention that the Federal Government, in general, and DHS, in particular, have devoted to interoperability, I was surprised to learn that DHS has not achieved Department-wide interoperability.

Police officers and firefighters from Newark to Jersey City and across the

10th Congressional District of New Jersey never leave my office without reminding me how important interoperable communications are. Nevertheless, according to a November 2012 inspector general report, DHS has invested over \$430 million into communications capabilities for its 123,000 radio users since 2003, but Department "personnel do not have reliable interoperable communications for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies."

Indeed, the inspector general testified before the committee in May that in 2012 it asked 479 DHS field radio users to access and use the specified channel to communicate. Only one of those 479 radio users—one of 479—could get on the common channel. That is a 99.8 percent failure rate.

The problem is not technology. Instead, the inspector general found that the Department had not established and implemented protocols to ensure that components put practices in place to achieve interoperability.

H.R. 4289, the DHS Interoperable Communications Act, which I introduced with my colleague on the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, Chairwoman BROOKS, requires that certain actions be taken by DHS leadership to drive components in the field towards interoperability. The legislation directs the Under Secretary for Management to issue policies and directives related to interoperability, develop a strategy to achieve DHS-wide interoperability, and report to Congress biannually on the Department's progress.

Interoperable communications capabilities are critical to the mission DHS carries out and to first responders across the United States. DHS must lead by example.

Toward that end, I was encouraged that the Department's acting Under Secretary for Management, Chris Cummiskey, expressed his commitment to addressing this issue when he appeared before the subcommittee last month. It is my hope that this legislation will bolster his efforts and make it clear to everyone in the Department that Congress is looking to DHS to achieve interoperability.

Before reserving my time, I would like to thank Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS for working with me on this measure. We have found that there are many issues in terms of this matter, and we have worked in a bipartisan manner to make sure that interoperability is achieved.

I would also like to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their help in addressing this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we have looked at this issue. We continue to talk to first responders throughout my district and throughout the Nation. We know that these issues around homeland security are bipartisan, and we have been able to work on this committee in a manner which we all have the same goal, which

is to make sure this Nation is safe and the homeland is secure.

I urge my colleagues to support improving the interoperable communications at DHS by voting for H.R. 4289. Our communities are safer when DHS has the capabilities necessary to effectively carry out its mission. Mr. Speaker, we always have to make sure that we keep our first responders safe.

Mr. Speaker, interoperable communications capabilities are essential to DHS' ability to carry out its mission on a day-to-day basis when disaster strikes. H.R. 4289 would put DHS on the path to achieving cross-component interoperable communications, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure. We must protect our protectors. Our first responders deserve the ability to communicate with each other.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that the various component agencies of the Department of Homeland Security are able to communicate on a daily basis, and particularly in times of crisis. As the ranking member has pointed out, it is not only our first responders, but all of our Federal agencies that deal with crisis daily.

Right now, numerous components, including being led in part by ICE, FEMA, and CBP, are working together to respond to the influx of unaccompanied alien children across our southern border. They must communicate together with one another. It is so important as they address this crisis. This is just one example of the latest reason why communications interoperability must be achieved and maintained between and among Department of Homeland Security's components.

I urge all Members to join the ranking member and myself in supporting this very important bipartisan legislation.

□ 1730

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me just indicate that I have just arrived and I wanted to support all of the bills, including yours.

If I might just make one comment about the preclearance bill, which we have all worked very hard on. I want to thank Mr. PAYNE and Mrs. BROOKS for their leadership, and just make the point that we have worked in a bipartisan manner in Homeland Security very effectively.

I also wanted to make mention in particular of the bill that I worked on extensively, H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act, and to indicate that this is a bill in which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish and conduct preclearance operations. It is

imperative, as we seek to push out our Nation's borders.

So we have had a vigorous discussion about how you utilize these preclearance sites. I think it comes to mind with some of the sites in the Middle East. And in light of where we are today, with TSA having to put in place new requirements because of the potential threat, I think this is a very positive step, as I do of all the bills, including ones dealing with interoperability, which we dealt with during the tragedy of 9/11.

I want to again thank Ranking Member PAYNE and the full committee chair and ranking member for their leadership.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Reclaiming my time, I reiterate that I urge all Members to join Ranking Member PAYNE and I in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

The gentlewoman from Texas has been very involved as well on the issues involving the unaccompanied alien children and interoperable communications issues. I appreciate her comments, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 4289, the "Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act."

One of the major lessons of the September 11th attacks was that operable and interoperable communications are imperative to an effective response.

Simply put, when law enforcement and other first responders have interoperable communications during an incident or disaster, lives are saved.

As a Nation, we have invested over \$13 billion on interoperable communications. However, the goal of achieving interoperability continues to evade us—even at the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal agency that is in charge of driving efforts to achieve interoperability at the Federal, State, and local levels.

In November 2012, the Office of the Inspector General reported that DHS' interoperable communications capability was deficient.

For example, of the radios examined during the OIG's audit, only 20 percent of them were set up to use the common channel.

The Inspector General recommended that stronger Departmental governance be established to ensure communications policies are fully implemented.

At the time, DHS explicitly rejected the OIG recommendation that a stronger governing structure be established and, instead, insisted that its existing structures were sufficient.

Nevertheless, the interoperability problem at DHS persists to this day.

This past May, Inspector General John Roth appeared before the Committee on Homeland Security and said: "I am frankly concerned that as we speak today a Secret Service agent in New York can't get on his radio and talk to a Federal Protective Service officer in New York or a CBP officer in El Paso can't talk to a Homeland Security Investigations Agent in the same city."

H.R. 4289 would require the Department to undertake the planning and oversight necessary to ensure that achievement of interoperability within DHS.

I would like to congratulate Subcommittee Ranking Member PAYNE, Jr. and Chairwoman BROOKS for their commitment to addressing this critical issue. I wish them success in their efforts and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4289.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 4289, the "Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act," which will help ensure the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) achieves cross-component interoperability.

This bill implements several recommendations contained in a 2012 report of the DHS Inspector General on the status and quality of interoperable radio communications.

A major finding of the report is that DHS has spent over \$430 million in the past 9 years for communication purposes but it still does not "have interoperable communications for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies."

The IG report also found that 99% (478 out of 479) of radio users surveyed could not find the DHS common channel because the components did not "effectively inform them" of the correct channel.

That is why it is important that we vote today to implement the following specific recommendations from the report:

1. Create a structure with the necessary authority to ensure that the components achieve interoperability.

2. Create a structure with the necessary authority to ensure that the components achieve interoperability.

Because the mission of DHS is to ensure that our homeland is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards, effective communication within the organization is crucial.

According to the IG, the reason for this lack of communication is that DHS's efforts to achieve department-wide interoperable communications capability have been undermined by excessive reliance upon Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) and voluntary participation by communications task forces and working groups.

This means that various agencies within DHS do not have a standardized set of policies regarding radios and the department's leadership has not been successful in enforcing adherence to those policies by all department components.

Although the IG urged DHS to implement a stronger enforcement structure, DHS has not adopted this recommendation, insisting instead that its existing structure is effective.

Plainly, it is not.

H.R. 4289 follows the recommendation from the report and ensures that DHS can achieve cross-component interoperability by:

Directing the Undersecretary to submit to Congress a strategy for achieving Department-wide interoperability within 120 days of enactment.

Report to Congress within 220 days, and bi-annually thereafter, on the progress of efforts to implement the Department-wide interoperability strategy.

Since its founding, the Department of Homeland Security has overcome many challenges as an organization but much more progress must be made regarding effective inter-operable communication between the federal, state, and local agencies.

Although not a panacea, H.R. 4289 is a step in the right direction because it will help improve DHS' overall functions so that it can more effectively protect our people.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4289.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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TAKING ADDITIONAL STEPS TO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE CONFLICT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-128)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") taking additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006 (E.O. 13413).

In E.O. 13413, it was determined that the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability and was addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1596 of April 18, 2005, Resolution 1649 of December 21, 2005, and Resolution 1698 of July 31, 2006, constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. To address that threat, E.O. 13413 blocks the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to E.O. 13413 or determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to meet criteria specified in E.O. 13413.

In view of multiple additional United Nations Security Council Resolutions including, most recently, Resolution 2136 of January 30, 2014, I am issuing the order to take additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in E.O. 13413, and to address the continuation of activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

and the surrounding region, including operations by armed groups, widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, obstruction of humanitarian operations, and exploitation of natural resources to finance persons engaged in these activities.

The order amends the designation criteria specified in E.O. 13413. As amended by the order, E.O. 13413 provides for the designation of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

To be a political or military leader of a foreign armed group operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be a political or military leader of a Congolese armed group that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be responsible for or complicit in, or to have engaged in, directly or indirectly, any of the following in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

The targeting of women, children, or any civilians through the commission of acts of violence (including killing, maiming, torture, or rape or other sexual violence), abduction, forced displacement, or attacks on schools, hospitals, religious sites, or locations where civilians are seeking refuge, or through conduct that would constitute a serious abuse or violation of human rights or a violation of international humanitarian law;

the use or recruitment of children by armed groups or armed forces in the context of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

the obstruction of the delivery or distribution of, or access to, humanitarian assistance;

attacks against United Nations missions, international security presences, or other peacekeeping operations; or

support to persons, including armed groups, involved in activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, through the illicit trade in natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Except where intended for the authorized support of humanitarian activities or the authorized use by or support of peacekeeping, international, or government forces, to have directly or indirectly supplied, sold, or transferred to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or been the recipient in the territory of the Democratic Republic of