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Sixteenth Special Session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 29 April 2011

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council presents its compliments to all United Nations Member States, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC and has the honour to inform them that, on Wednesday, 27 April 2011 at 10h58, it received a request by the United States of America to convene a special session on "The situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic".

In order for a special session to be convened, in conformity with operative paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 60/251, the support of one-third of the membership of the Council (16 members or more) is required. The above-mentioned request was submitted by the following Member States of the Council: **Belgium, France, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zambia.** The list was also signed by the following Observer States: Austria, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Sweden.

Pursuant to paragraph 124 of the Annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the President shall hold open-ended informative consultations before the special session on its conduct and organization. Accordingly, the organizational meeting will be held on **Thursday, 28 April 2011 at 3.00 p.m.** in Room XX of the Palais des Nations.

Further to consultations with the President of the Human Rights Council, the Secretariat also wishes to inform all Permanent Missions that the Special Session on "The situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic", shall be held on **Friday, 29 April 2011 at 11.00 a.m.** in Room XX of the Palais des Nations.

27 April 2011