



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Twenty-fifth special session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 21 October 2016

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and has the honour to inform them that on 18 October at 5.20 p.m., the President of the Human Rights Council received a letter signed by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland containing a request to convene a special session of the Council on the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the recent situation in Aleppo, on Friday 21 October 2016.

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 supported by the following 16 States Members of the Council: **Belgium, France, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.** The request was also supported by the following 17 observer States: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

Further to consultations with the President of the Human Rights Council, the 25th special session shall be held on **Friday, 21 October 2016, at 10 a.m.**, in Room XX at the Palais des Nations.

Pursuant to paragraph 124 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the President shall hold an open-ended informative consultation before the special session on its conduct and organization on **Thursday, 20 October 2016, at 3 p.m.**, in Room XX at the Palais des Nations.

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council the assurances of its highest consideration.

18 October 2016