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Subject: Applications for the vacancy of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, international organizations or their offices, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other human rights bodies, and has the honour to inform them that the above-mentioned mandate-holder is to be filled at the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council (27 February – 23 March 2012). The mandate was established by the Council's resolution (A/HRC/RES/S-18/1) at its 18th Special Session on 2 December 2011, a copy of which is attached. An updated information note on selection and appointment of mandate holders and web-based application procedure, along with a new application form are available online at the following link: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/nominations.htm>

The Consultative Group established in accordance with paragraph 47 of Annex to Council resolution 5/1 is mandated to propose a list of candidates to the President of the Council one month prior to the Council's nineteenth session. In order for the Consultative Group to implement this mandate, individual candidates, including those nominated by entities, must submit applications to this vacancy by **30 December 2011 (midnight, GMT)** through the new on-line application procedure as indicated above. If encountering technical difficulties, the Secretariat may be contacted by email: hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org or by fax: + 41 22 917 9011.

Attention is drawn to paragraph 42 of Annex to Council resolution 5/1, which indicates that the following entities may nominate candidates: (a) Governments, (b) Regional Groups operating within the United Nations human rights system, (c) international organizations or their offices, (d) non-governmental organizations, (e) other human rights bodies, and (f) individual nominations. Attention is also drawn to paragraph 22 (a) of Annex to Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011 which provides that national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles may also nominate candidates.

Furthermore, paragraph 22 (b) of Annex to Council resolution 16/21, stipulates that individual candidates and candidates nominated by entities shall submit an application for each specific mandate, together with personal data and a motivation letter no longer than 600 words. In accordance with the new procedure the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall prepare a public list of candidates who will apply for each specific vacancy.

For further information, reference documents on the appointment and selection process (Council resolution 5/1, decision 6/102, resolution 16/21) are available on-line at the Council's webpage through the following link: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/>.

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council avails itself of this opportunity to present to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, international organizations or their offices, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other human rights bodies the assurances of its highest consideration.

5 December 2011