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Twentieth Special Session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 20 January 2014

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 13 January 2014 at 11.00 a.m., the President of the Council received a letter from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations Office in Geneva on behalf of the African Group, containing a request to convene a special session of the Council on the human rights situation in the Central African 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 supported by the following States Members of the Council: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Gabon, Germany, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sierra Leone, South Africa, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

The request was also supported by the following Observer States: Angola, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Guinea, Hungary, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Greece, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

Further to consultations with the President of the Human Rights Council, **the 20th special session on the human rights situation in the Central African Republic shall be held on Monday 20 January 2014, 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 open-ended informative consultations before the special session on its conduct and organization. Accordingly, an organizational meeting on the special session will be held on **Friday 17 January 2014, at 3 p.m.** in Room XX at the Palais des Nations.

13 January 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the President of the Human Rights Council at the time.