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Eighteenth Special Session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 2 December 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 30 November 2011 at 10.00 a.m., it received a letter from Ambassador Mariangela Zappia, Permanent Observer of the European Union to the United Nations Office in Geneva and Ambassador Remigiusz A. Henczel, Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations Office in Geneva, containing a request to convene a special session "to examine the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic in the light of the report of the Commission of Inquiry".

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: Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Maldives, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Spain, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, United States of America and Uruguay. The request was also supported by the following Observer States: Albania, Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and North Ireland and Turkey.

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 on the special session will be held on **Thursday 1 December 2011, at 12.00 noon in Room XX, at the Palais des Nations.**

Further to consultations with the President of the Human Rights Council, the Special Session on "The situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic in the light of the report of the Commission of Inquiry", shall be held on **Friday 2 December 2011, at 10 a.m. in Room XX, at the Palais des Nations.**

A copy of the text of a draft resolution entitled "The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic" tabled by Poland is attached herewith for easy of reference.

30 November 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the official who signed the document.