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### Ninth Special Session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 9 January 2009

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 the Secretariat received on 6 January 2009 at 6:20 p.m. a request addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council by the Permanent Representative of Egypt as President of the Arab Group and Coordinator of the African Group, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan, as Coordinator of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Permanent Representative of Cuba as President of the Non-Aligned Movement on behalf of the following members of those groups that are currently members of the Council: **Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia.**

The above mentioned request reads as follows:

'We are writing to you, on behalf of the Arab Group, the African Group, the OIC Group, and the Non-Aligned Movement, in order to kindly request the holding of a Special Session of the Council on 9 January 2009 to address "**The Grave Violations of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including the recent aggression of the occupied Gaza Strip**".

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 30 Member States of the Council: **Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia.**

After consultation with the President of the Human Rights Council, the Secretariat has the honour to inform all United Nations Member States, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC that the Special Session shall be held in Room XIX of the Palais des Nations on **Friday 9 January 2009 at 11:00 a.m.**

Pursuant to paragraph 124 of the Annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 the President shall convene an open-ended informative consultation in relation to the Special Session. This consultation shall be held on **Wednesday, 7 January 2009 at 03:00 p.m.** in Room XIX of the Palais des Nations.

6 January 2009