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 19 May 2021 at 8:45 p.m., the President of the Human Rights Council received a letter signed jointly by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Coordinator of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, and the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, requesting to convene a special session of the Council on the grave human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

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 20 States Members of the Council: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, China, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Gabon, Indonesia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The request was also supported by the following 43 observer States: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the State of Palestine.

Further to consultations with the President of the Human Rights Council, the 30th special session shall be held on Thursday, 27 May 2021, from 10 a.m.

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 Tuesday, 25 May 2021, from 3 p.m.

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.

20 May 2021