



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Thirty-first special session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 24 August 2021

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 17 August 2021 at 17:23 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 Representative of Afghanistan, requesting to convene a special session of the Council on the serious human rights concerns and situation in Afghanistan.

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 29 States Members of the Council: **Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechia, Denmark, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uzbekistan.** The request was also supported by the following 60 observer States: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Comoros, Croatia, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Gambia, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, 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 31st special session shall be held on **Tuesday, 24 August 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 **Monday, 23 August 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.

17 August 2021