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Nineteenth Special Session of the Human Rights Council Geneva, 1 June 2012

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 May 2012 at 11.00 a.m., it received a letter signed by the Ambassadors of Qatar, Turkey, the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Denmark and the the European Union, containing a request to convene a special session of the Council on the “deteriorating human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the recent killings in El-Houleh”.

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, Chile, the Czech Republic, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Kuwait, the Maldives, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America and Uruguay. The request was also supported by the following Observer States: Australia, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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 31 May 2012, at 1 p.m. in Room XX, at the Palais des Nations.**

Further to consultations with the President of the Human Rights Council, the 19th special session shall be held on **Friday 1 June 2012, at 11 a.m. in Room XX, at the Palais des Nations.**

30 May 2012

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