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## Seventeenth Special Session of the Human Rights Council Geneva, 22 August 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 17 August 2011 at 6.45 p.m., it received a letter from the Permanent Observer of the European Union to the United Nations Office in Geneva and the Chargé d'affaires, a.i., Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations Office in Geneva, containing a request to convene a special session on "The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic". A copy of the text of a draft resolution entitled "Grave human rights violations in the Syrian Arab Republic", enclosed in the above-mentioned letter is attached herewith.

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 Member States of the Council: **Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Maldives, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, the United States of America and Uruguay.** The request was also supported by the following Observer States: Albania, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the 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 18 August 2011, at 4 p.m. in Room XX of 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", shall be held on **Monday 22 August 2011, at 11.30. a.m. in Room XX of the Palais des Nations.**

17 August 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J.', written over the date.