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Eleventh Special Session of the Human Rights Council

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 from the Czech Republic on Tuesday, 19 May 2009 at 16:30, a request addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council by the Permanent Representative of Germany.

The above-mentioned request reads as follows:

“Hereby I would like to request convening of a Special Session of the Human Rights Council, as provided for by General Assembly resolution 60/251, entitled *The human rights situation in Sri Lanka* to be held on Monday 25th May 2009”

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 17 Member States of the Council: **Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Italy, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.** The list was also signed by number of Observer States: **Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden.**

Pursuant to paragraph 122 of the Annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Special Session should be held not earlier than two working days and not later than five working days after the formal receipt of the request. Further to paragraph 124, the President should hold open-ended informative consultations before the Special Session on its conduct and organization. Related information will be communicated in due course.

19 May 2009