



Téléfax: +41 (0)22 917 90 11
Téléphone: +41 (0)22 917 93 19
E-mail: etistounet@ohchr.org
Website: www.ohchr.org



Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Genève 10

Eighth Special Session of the Human Rights Council Geneva, 28 November 2008

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 on 25 November at 5:50 p.m. a request addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council by the Permanent Mission of France on behalf of the following countries: Argentina, Bosnia-and-Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The above-mentioned request reads as follows:

I have the honour to address this letter to you to request the convening of a Special Session of the Human Rights Council, as provided by the General Assembly resolution 60/251, entitled **“The situation of human rights in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo”** to be held on Friday, 28 November 2008.

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 (at least 16 members) is required. The above-mentioned request was signed by the following sixteen Member States of the Council: Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The list was also signed by a number of Observer States.

After consultation with the President of the Human Rights Council, the Secretariat has the honour to inform all United Nations Member States, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, that the Special Session shall be held in room XVII of the Palais des Nations on Friday, 28 November 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

Pursuant to paragraph 124 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 the President shall also convene open-ended informative consultations in relation to the special session. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, 26 November at 3:00 p.m. in room XVII of the Palais des Nations.

25 November 2008