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**7th special session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 23 May 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 and has the honour to inform them that the Secretariat received on Thursday, 8 May 2008, at 18:15 a request addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council by the Permanent Representative of Cuba.

The above mentioned request reads as follows:

I have the honor 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 negative impact on the realization of the right to food of the worsening of the world food crisis, caused *inter alia* by the soaring food prices", to be held on Friday, 23 May 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 (16 members or more) is required. The above-mentioned request was signed by the following 41 Member States of the Council: Angola, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Cuba (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Djibouti, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zambia. The list was also signed by a number of Observer States, including Palestine on behalf of the Arab Group.

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 that the Special Session shall be held in Room XIX of the Palais des Nations on Friday, 23 May 2008.

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 date and time of this meeting shall be confirmed shortly.

8 May 2008

Enclosures: Letter by the Permanent Representative of Cuba, dated 8 May 2008
(including explanatory note and draft resolution)

List of signatures of the request to hold a special session on “The negative impact on the realization of the right to food of the worsening of the world food crisis, caused *inter alia* by the soaring food prices”