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## Fourth special session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 12 December 2006  
(Salle des Assemblées)

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The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions in Geneva, United Nations departments and bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and has the honour to inform them that the President of the Human Rights Council, having consulted with interested parties, has decided to convene a special session **on Tuesday, 12 December 2006, starting at 10.00 am**, in order to respond to the request of the Ambassador of Finland on “The human rights situation in Darfur” signed by 33 Member States.

Further to its note verbal of 30 November 2006, the Secretariat would like to inform all delegations that the Permanent Missions of Argentina, Cuba, India and the Russian Federation have also signed the above request.

The modalities for the 1st special session held on 5 and 6 July 2006 that were prepared by the President of the Council in consultation with the Bureau are also attached for ease of reference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the President of the Council.

4 December 2006

### **Suggestion for the first special session of the Human Rights Council, in an interim basis**

- These suggestions should be applied in an interim basis, as the Council will address in the future the question of its methods of work.
- The special session shall only deal with the specific question for which it was convened. Therefore, the only agenda item shall be the specific question.

#### **Proposals**

Provisions of rule 120 of the GA Rules of Procedure, apply ("as a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day").

Modalities for the voting procedure will be the same used at the first session of the Council, adjusting concerned countries which will be given 3 minutes.

#### **List of speakers and speaking-time limits:**

- The list of speakers will be prepared by the Secretariat. The list will be drawn up in chronological order of registration. HRC Members and concerned countries will be given the floor first, followed by non-HRC members and other observers.
- Given the short duration of the special session and the number of expected interventions, time should be allotted as follow: 5 minutes Member States and concerned countries; 3 minutes Non-Member States; 3 minutes intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies, national institutions and NGOs.
- However, if the list of speakers exceeds 3 hours, it will be necessary to distribute the time proportionally.

#### **Rights of reply and points of order:**

- Rights of reply will be limited to two replies of three minutes for the first and two minutes for the second and all rights of reply will be exercised at the end of the discussion of the question.
- In accordance with rule 113 of the rules of procedure of the GA, a speaker may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. Consequently, the President will not allow the use of points of order to express disagreement with or provide any argument in favour of or against questions of substance raised.

4 July 2006.