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*Translated from Arabic*

[First letter]

**Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic  
Geneva**

1. Syria's accession to the Convention was a conscious decision based on its belief in the importance of the Convention and giving effect to it. The submission by Syria of its initial report reaffirms that it is cooperating with all United Nations human rights mechanisms. Although many other States have not submitted any of their required reports, the Committee has not followed up with them in the same manner that it has done with Syria. We had expected that the Committee would act in good faith to help Syria fulfil its treaty obligations, in accordance with letter and spirit of the Convention.
2. Syria is prepared to cooperate fully with the Committee within the latter's competence and in accordance with Syria's treaty obligations, including its reservation to article 20, which is an obligation that is equally binding on both Syria and the Committee and that neither may disregard. For example, the Committee may not cite information and exercise its competence under article 20 of the Convention, to which Syria has made a reservation. It should be noted that article 19 (a) [sic] does not provide for such enquiries or the possibility of requesting such information or the issuance of press releases against Syria.
3. The Syrian Arab Republic affirms that information received by the Committee concerning alleged human rights violations is nothing more than allegations. We note, however, that the Committee has treated those allegations as though they were established facts. We further note that the request it made based on those allegations contradicts the principle of avoiding double standards in the work of the human rights mechanisms, a matter which the Committee implicitly affirmed in its letter.
4. With regard to the points that were not answered in Syria's observations, we request that the Committee provide detailed clarification in that regard so that Syria can reply in a satisfactory manner, in order to avoid wasting both our time and the Committee's. This is particularly important given that Syria has implemented a significant proportion of the Committee's observations, including the lifting of the state of emergency that had been in effect. The Committee was informed of this action through the Secretary-General.
5. With regard to the request to inform the Committee of the measures it has taken to give effect to its undertakings under the Convention, the country stands fully ready to provide such information in its first periodic report, which must be submitted in 2014 pursuant to article 19 of the Convention. This also applies to Syria's position regarding the withdrawal of its reservations to article 20 of the Convention.
6. The Syrian Arab Republic would be grateful if the observations it sent to the Committee on 24 August 2011 were included in the Committee's annual report, in accordance with article 19 of the Convention. It would also be grateful if those comments were published on the Committee's website, alongside its observations on Syria's 2010 report.