Madame Deputy Secretary General,

Excellencies,

Egypt aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of G77 and China, the African, and the Arab groups, and would like to add the following remarks.

1. In looking at the OCA’s approach towards rule of law, it is important not to overlook the necessity of ensuring the availability of resources and capacity building for developing countries to be able to administer justice in an optimal way. This calls for the collective responsibility of the international community as a whole.

2. Regarding the notion that “rule of law assistance can support States, communities and the people in rebuilding their social contract”, we consider that work on this front should remain guided by the 2012 Declaration on the rule of law at the national and international levels, which acknowledged the national ownership of rule of law activities.

3. In light of the growth of international trade and digital economy, the idea of establishing an international tax system has become crucial. Nonetheless, creating such a system must be based on consultation with all member states of the United Nations, and not on a mechanism discussed between a limited number of countries, such as the G20 countries.

4. Regarding the idea of creating a new joint structure on financial integrity and tackling IFFs to promote transparency, we find that it only emphasizes the transparency component and negates the “asset recovery” element which is of paramount importance to developing countries. Any work on IFFS should address the obstacles facing asset recovery, as well as strengthening international coordination in this regard.

5. When discussing finding measures of progress that complement GDP, it is necessary to consider the importance of providing technical support and contributing to capacity building in developing countries to enhance their ability to contribute to these efforts and to implement those measures after reaching consensus.

6. With regard to the proposal to hold a biennial summit on global economy, we consider that there are already a number of meetings and summits organized periodically that can play the same role. The creation of parallel tracks might ultimately complicate, rather than simplify, multilateral action. Moreover, any such summit should be inclusive.

7. We welcome and support the proposal to work on reaching a fairer and more resilient multilateral trading system, but find that it is still too early to be calling for associating international trade with sustainable economics, especially where developing countries are involved. Different levels of development among countries should be taken into consideration in this regard. We would also ask that multilaterally agreed terms, such as sustainable economies, be used in this regard, rather than “green” and “circular” economies.
8. We support the view that it is important to gradually encourage the private sector to align business models with practices with universal values, especially with the sustainable development goals, since they are the values agreed upon in the multilateral framework.

9. We generally support the introduction of reforms to the UNDS to enhance its vital role in developing countries, but emphasis that it should work in member states in accordance with their national priorities and specific circumstances, while maintaining focus on the developmental aspect. We also reiterate the importance of ensuring adequate and predictable funding to the UNDS core activities through the existing funding arrangements.

Thank You