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to the United Nations
New York

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Statement of Egypt before the Sixth Committee

on “the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels” (Item 83)

10 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt aligns itself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African group.

At the United Nations World Summit in 2005, Member States unanimously recognized the need for universal adherence to the rule of law at both national and international levels. This global recognition was further reaffirmed by convening the first high level meeting on the Rule of Law on September 24, 2012. The success of this meeting represents a milestone in the GA’s discussions.

We would like to express our appreciation for the Co-facilitators of the consultations on the high level meeting’s outcome document -the ambassadors of Denmark & Mexico- for their efforts throughout the process. We commend the transparent and professional manner in which they have carried out their task. The consultations on the outcome document have also revealed the following positions that have to be taken into consideration when continuing our deliberations on the rule of law in the Sixth Committee:

- 1- Different views remain on the components of the rule of law. Therefore, reaching a commonly shared understanding of the notion of the rule of law is important.
- 2- There is a tendency by some to focus on upholding the rule of law at the national level, and ignore its importance at the international level. We reiterate the need for a balanced approach towards both national and international levels of the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

The rule of law is closely related to the profound political changes that occurred in North Africa and the Middle East since 2011:

- The Arab revolutions have occurred in response to popular calls for accountability, transparency and the rule of law. This reflects the value of the rule of law for the peoples of the region. Oppression, injustice and corruption were the main reasons behind these revolutions. Justice, freedom and social equality were the first demands of the Egyptian revolution.
- Egypt reiterates its firm commitment to promote the rule of law after the recent presidential elections. The new Egyptian government is committed to establish the rule of law, empower institutions, respect & protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Nevertheless, the following key challenges for upholding the rule of law remain in the region and in the world:
 1. The pending implementation of the outcomes of the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons. The conference gave a clear mandate to the Secretary General to organize in 2012 a conference on establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We call for the completion of the necessary measures to convene the conference within the agreed timeframe, this means this year 2012, in order to address the threat caused by the presence of such weapons in the Middle East.
 2. The continued suffering of the Palestinian people and the deadlock of the peace process. We call for ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian occupied territories, including Jerusalem. We further call for ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan and all Arab occupied territories. We support the Palestinian request for admission to the United Nations as a full member. Egypt will provide its full support to any resolution tabled in the GA during the current session to upgrade the status of Palestine to that of a non-member state, as a minimum step towards realizing the Palestinian legitimate

request to obtain international recognition. Egypt urges all states to support this step in order to preserve the credibility of our organization, and the principles it stands for, in particular upholding the rule of law at the international level and promoting international legitimacy.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Egypt looks forward to continue the discussions on the rule of law in the Sixth Committee. We pledge to continue upholding the very notion of the rule of law and the principles it is based on, namely the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, equality and justice for all.

I thank you for your attention.