Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries.

The Group would like to convey the following key messages in relation with the proposals of the Secretary General.

First, it is urgent to go beyond per capita income as a basis to measure development and to design and implement more comprehensive measures of progress as criteria for international cooperation and access to concessional finance and debt treatment initiatives.

GDP cannot reflect socioeconomic inequalities, multidimensional poverty, and vulnerabilities to socioeconomic risks. The validity of modalities used to measure progress requires consideration of other factors that go beyond income, such as, among others, equality, inclusion, healthy ecosystems, and access to services, as well as humanitarian needs.
We therefore welcome the call of the Secretary General to find urgent measures of progress that complement GDP, as tasked by the 2030 Agenda. This has been the consistent request of the Like-Minded Group of Middle-Income Countries, in light of the realities and specific challenges that our countries face.

We also stress the pertinence of giving greater weight to indices of vulnerability to external shocks and systemic risk criteria. The development of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index is key to reach this purpose and must be taken into account.

These proposals are also essential in light of the request of the General Assembly to conduct a mapping exercise of the current support available within the United Nations to Middle-Income countries, and represent significant steps towards developing a comprehensive system-wide response plan to assist our countries.

Second, the socioeconomic reactivation from the COVID-19 pandemic must be sustainable and bear in mind climate impacts and environmental commitments. We highlight the work of the Statistical Commission and the development of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. We stress the importance and potential of these tools, based on robust data and information, to account for the environment and to complementarily guide investments.

Third, we note with regret that economic governance is driven disproportionately by a small number of States and financial actors, and it is
siloed from other areas of international agenda setting and decision-making. The Biennial Summit mentioned in the report should be inclusive of all Member States and avoid duplications with existing frameworks. The interests of the developing countries need to be heard and addressed in the deliberation and policymaking making of the IFIs.

Fourth, the Group recognizes the need of an open, transparent, rules-based and non-discriminatory trading system, aligned with sustainable economies.

Fifth, on the intention of the Secretary General to build on recent innovations in listening to, consulting and engaging with people around the world, the Group recognizes the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, and believes that Member States should be involved in such processes.

Sixth, proposals related to taxation need to be inclusive, based on strong international cooperation and take into account major developments on the matter. They also need to avoid scenarios that could create obstacles in key areas related to sustainable development, such as connectivity and the digital economy.

Seventh, we agree on the need to accelerate the return of stolen assets and action in the fight against corruption, and call for enhanced technical cooperation to ensure effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

Finally, Mr. President, the Group would like to reiterate its call on the United Nations, IFIs and relevant stakeholders, to provide urgent and adequate support to Middle-Income Countries including through ongoing processes,
paying special attention to those that face debt and liquidity issues, as required depending on the specific circumstance of each country.

I thank you.