Excellencies gathered here on the panel and on video,
Excellencies present in the room,
Ladies and gentlemen,
And dear Gabriel Ferrero.

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to stand here today with you to discuss such an important topic in the ministerial segment of the CFS’s 50th Plenary Session, a key event that comes as the urgency of transforming our food systems in order to guarantee food security and improve nutrition everywhere in the world appears more crucial every day.

Indeed, as the report on “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World”, the SOFI, demonstrates in its 2022 edition, we are only seven years away from 2030, but the gap that separates us from achieving the second sustainable development goal, “zero hunger”, is growing wider.

“Zero Hunger”, or the urgency of making the right to food a reality, is our common goal. It was already clearly stated earlier, more than 800 million people still face an empty or partially empty plate, and projections indicate that more than 600 million people will still face hunger in the future, by 2030.

The main drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition – armed conflicts, epidemics and pandemic, climate change, severe and critical economic situations – are alas on the rise. Their effects on the availability and access thus, the cost of food and inputs like fertilizers, combined with growing inequalities, will continue to challenge food security and nutrition for many years to come.

Thus, now more than ever, the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, which I have the honour and privilege to represent today, calls for a greater dialogue between science and policy makers, which is clearly the best path to achieve our common goals.
In recent months, the HLPE-FSN have studied the impact of the war in Ukraine, but also how to improve the collection and analysis of data, so fundamentally useful for the development and evaluation of public policies. We also proposed to CFS our analysis of the issues to be addressed in the coming years for food security and nutrition.

The HLPE are looking forward to the debates that will ensue this week and after.

We also look forward to the endorsement of the policy recommendations on youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems. Youth involvement, especially of young women, scientists and entrepreneurs, is essential for the sustainable transformation of food systems.

I wish us all a robust discussion and a strong international commitment in a fruitful dialogue for the effective implementation of our common goals!

On our part (HLPE), we wish to continue our engagement with great determination, as part of the CFS.

Thank you.