

UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, ladies and gentlemen,
I am honored to speak at this important event, bringing together the international community and creating a joint platform for global transformation of our food systems.

It is our common goal and responsibility to provide a Healthy, Equitable and Sustainable Food System to our people and to future generations.

To keep up with our ever-changing world, facing the outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic and to be better prepared for the challenges ahead, we must harness science and technology to improve nutrition, safeguard the environment and insure healthy food for all.

The UN SDG are embedded in Israel's food production policies. We strive to achieve them by 2030, especially reaching zero hunger and sustainable solutions to food insecurity in all related aspects, mainly a strong independent local food industry that implements innovative technological solutions to improve our food system.

Innovation is at the core of Israel's development and culture. My ministry will allocate significant funds to introduce new products, technologies, and skills, so that together with other stakeholders in the National Food System, we will be able to facilitate effectiveness and competitiveness, contribute to climate resilience and drive sustainable practices that increase food security and improve nutritional profile.

We Know that these goals will only be reached by joint efforts and collaboration on the national level, as well as the regional and global levels.

As a leading country in agricultural innovation and technology, Israel is ready to share its experience and knowhow with all other members. Agritech and Foodtech can provide solutions for developing and growing a variety of healthy foods, in

increasingly difficult environmental and climatic conditions, especially in semi-arid and arid regions.

I would like to thank UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to the 2021 Food System Summit, Dr. Agnes Kalibata, and to Dr. David Nabarro, for the valuable guidance and advice during the National process leading to today's Summit.

I would also like to thank the Israeli teams led by the Chief Scientist of the Ministry for Protection of the Environment, Dr. Noga Kronfeld-Schor and experts from the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Health, and other stakeholders, for their contribution to productive discussion resulting in the formulation of Israel's National pathway to achieve food security.

Wishing us all a productive Summit.

Thank you and Shalom.