Mr. Secretary General,
Dear Summit participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you, Mr. Secretary General, for convening this Summit.

The world faces many new global challenges such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, political and economic instability.

But creating conditions for sustainable food systems is – literally – a life-giving priority. Food systems touch every aspect of human existence: our bodies, our environment, our economies and our cultures.

The World Food Program estimates that 270 million people will face food shortages this year as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and climate change. The global water deficit may reach 40% by 2030.

Kazakhstan is an active participant in the global food supply chain. We are committed to green and sustainable development of the agricultural sector.

Our country is one of the ten largest producers of food wheat and flour, exporting up to seven million tons of wheat per year. Despite constraints, we have also increased the export of oilseeds to more than one million tons per year.

Yet, a food system must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. Kazakhstan is located in a risky agricultural zone. It is subject to arid climate changes. 40% of the country’s water comes from neighboring countries.

To achieve more efficient use of land and water resources, we are increasing land fertility, introducing water-saving technologies and digitalizing water supply systems.
It has become very clear that when it comes to sustainable food systems, issues related to water diplomacy are relevant, even critical, for many countries.

Food systems and water management systems – including the use of transboundary rivers – are inextricably linked. Food systems frameworks and agreements must reflect this.

Kazakhstan initiated the establishment of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, which today includes 36 countries with 1.4 billion people.

Through it, Kazakhstan systematically provides humanitarian assistance in the form of wheat and flour to countries in need, including Afghanistan.

Mr. Secretary General,
Summit participants!

There is much work ahead. We must strengthen agro-technological, scientific and innovative interactions between all countries. We must also improve finance, investment, transport and logistics.

The Food and Agriculture Organization will need to play an increasing role in ensuring global food security and a sustainable ecological system to support it.

I hope this Summit will help us progress toward SDG #2 – ending hunger – and ensuring food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agricultural development.

Thank you!