UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Prime Minister Mario Draghi, Heads of State, Ministers, Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen,

The global mission,

to build sustainable, resilient and equitable food systems,
In line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda,
is not just an environmental or economic issue.

It is an issue of social justice, public health, national security, and international peace.

In Israel,
a small, arid and densely-populated country,
developing an effective food systems transformation pathway
is absolutely critical for our continued ability
to grow and thrive as a nation.

A central element of our approach, is realizing the potential of science and innovation.

This includes the promotion of pioneering technologies such as

We must ensure that regulators systematically collect accurate and reliable information, and share it transparently with all stakeholders.

And we must launch a nationwide education campaign, so that the next generation understands the importance of transforming our food systems.

The State of Israel

is committed to regional and international cooperation on these vital issues, which is why we recently joined the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

I strongly believe

that cooperation on food sustainability and stability can be a force for regional peace.

Just this month,

the UAE's Minister of State for Food and Water Security

visited Israel

and signed collaboration agreements with her counterparts.

<u>I also met with her, and we signed MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection and Climate change.</u>

I intend to continue to promote

Together,
we can build a more resilient, sustainable and secure future,
for our peoples,
our countries,
and all the children of the region.

Thank you very much.