Thank you Diane; Amb. Margaryan and all the panellists and participants that are following this important session on eradicating poverty.

1. The COVID-19 has highlighted a silent challenge that we have faced over the years: inequality. Latin America is the most unequal region of the world and the efforts made to decrease poverty are now at risk of receding.

2. This health crisis has shown us that universal access to health care services is only one part of the challenge. Food crisis, decent jobs, gender inequality, lack of social protection systems, education and environmental problems have a direct impact on the increasing levels of poverty worldwide.

3. Income poverty and acting in silos will return us to the “business as usual” scenario. This is our opportunity to really change the development paradigm by fully implementing the 2030 Agenda.

4. For Mexico, the eradication of poverty is not only an economic goal, it is mainly about giving dignity to those that are left behind. Our priority is to address the needs of vulnerable groups, with more intersectorial and multiactoral responses.

5. To respond to COVID-19 we are strengthening social protection systems and non-contributory programs. We are providing direct cash transfers to the most vulnerable sectors, unemployment benefits, credits to Small and Medium Enterprises and support to low-income workers and those who work in the informal sector.

6. In doing so, the government of Mexico has partnered with the private sector and our civil society. We believe in the great power of alliances that the Agenda 2030 has taught us.

7. Finally, to build back better we need an effective multilateralism, with leadership and political commitment. We are prepared for the task ahead of us, we have the 2030 Agenda as our guide and our goal is to leave no one behind.