Excellencies, all protocols observed,

First, let me say that as the reports from the Presidencies of the Five Sustainable Development Fora make evident, the UN system has managed to establish a wide-ranging profound conversation about the 2030 Agenda in all regions, and also about the question of acceleration, so important in light of the evidence that we are seriously off track.

As the SG says in his Foreword to the SDG Report 2024, “we need a surge in implementation”. But my first message is that there is an enormous amount of institutional capital and policy dialogue capital that has been invested in Agenda 2030, and this is in itself no insignificant achievement. It is nothing less than a world-wide conversation about development challenges, at the global, regional, national and local levels.

Second, a key question now, is the question of acceleration, that takes us to issues of means of implementation. In our report to the Sustainable Development Forum of LAC last April analyzed the six transitions and for each one we identified 3 areas of implementation:

i) The strategies, policies, plans and programmes observed in the countries to promote each transition.

ii) The institutional arrangements used to push and coordinate implementation, and
iii) The investment and financing needs.

So, my second message is that these three elements need to be strong and well aligned. Financing is key, but it is not the only one that matters; what kind of policies and programs countries have is also key, as is also the question of what institutional arrangements and capabilities countries have to manage the transition.

None of these three should be underestimated. Thinking the implementation agenda in terms of these three elements is crucial to better understand the capacities for acceleration of each transition in each country context.

Third, regarding financing, it is important to recall the high levels of debt, debt service and limited fiscal spaces faced by many countries. In LAC several countries are using up 3, 4 and even 5 points of their GDP to pay interest on their debt. Countries should not have to choose between servicing their debts and responding to urgent development priorities. We have called this uncomfortable trade-off “development distress”.

And this is why an ambitious outcome regarding the reforms of the international financial architecture at the Summit of the Future this year and in next year’s Fourth Conference on Financing for Development is so important, in fact indispensable.

Finally, in preparation for next year’s World Summit on Social Development we stand ready to support preparations with innovative policy agendas, such as the concept of the care society.

I thank you.