Secretary-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

- While the eyes of the world are directed towards Ukraine, we must also not forget the deep humanitarian crisis facing Afghanistan. I thank the UN and co-hosts Germany, Qatar and UK for convening today’s important meeting.

- Today I met with students at a school here in Sweden. Children’s right to education is a fundamental human right and I am deeply troubled by the unacceptable decision of the Taliban to suspend girls’ education from the 6th grade. The UN must relentlessly advocate for the rights of women, girls and minorities, and make sure that humanitarian assistance reaches all in need.

- Sweden will continue supporting the people of Afghanistan and remain a top donor. For 2022 we have so far allocated 26 million USD in humanitarian assistance. But humanitarian interventions are not enough. Support to maintain basic services, without channelling it through the de facto authorities, is urgently needed. In 2022 Sweden will allocate around 80 million USD in development aid, including 10 million USD to the UN Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan.

- Finally, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to all humanitarian workers on the ground for their heroic efforts to deliver life-saving assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

Thank you.