SB52 2021: opening plenary Statement by the Farmers Constituency

My name is Martin Kennedy. I am a beef and sheep farmer and president of NFU Scotland. I am honoured to be speaking for the hundreds of millions of farmers across the world who are on the front line of this global climate emergency. The covid pandemic has also significantly affected the livelihoods of many farmers.

Despite the challenges we face especially those in the Global South, rural women farmers and the farmers of the future, we are part of the solution to climate change. And we are ambitious.

For us, ambition means action. On NDCs; on the building of skills and capacity to support a global just transition; on innovation and technology transfer; on investment in research and extension; and on ambitious financial frameworks to build sustainable and entrepreneurial businesses. The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and our participation in it is instrumental in raising global climate ambition for our sector.

A one-size fits all approach is not appropriate for the diversity of our farming systems but now is the time to really help all farmers. We want to see inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient food systems and economies with farmers of all shapes and sizes at their heart and which leave no farmer behind.

On behalf of all farmers across the UK we hope to see you to Glasgow in November and work together for a successful outcome to COP26.