Thank you Chair.

Since the beginning of the outbreak in DRC, the second biggest in history, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has invested over USD 15 million to support operational costs in DRC and neighboring countries for the vaccination effort - funding the vaccination teams, transportation, syringes and other vaccine supplies, as well as the ultra-cold fridges which keep the vaccine at the minus 60-80°C temperatures it needs to remain effective.

The Ebola vaccine, made available through Gavi’s Advance Purchase Commitment, has played a major role saving lives in DRC. Despite the challenging security situation in the area, over 115,000 people at risk of being infected have so far been vaccinated in Eastern DRC and thousands of deaths have been averted. We commend the bravery and resolve of health workers who continue to serve in a complex and extremely challenging environment.

Gavi is working closely with WHO and the vaccine manufacturer to assess the supply situation. Since the beginning of the outbreak, approximately 440,000 doses of investigational vaccine have been made available, and we appreciate the responsiveness of the manufacturer to the evolving needs.

While the stockpile is being replenished in parallel to activities to support licensure and prequalification, the manufacturer is committed producing as many investigational doses as possible to support the future needs of the outbreak.

Based on the current recommendations from the WHO’s Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) - in particular the new adjusted dosing strategy which significantly increases the supply of investigational vaccines, our understanding is that the available supply of vaccines may be sufficient.
However, if the vaccination strategy is further revised for wider reach, the supply situation will need to be reassessed. We welcome WHO's view on this assessment of the supply situation.

Gavi is continuing to work closely with the Government of DRC to strengthen health systems while responding to the Ebola outbreak. This includes supporting the country's Mashako Plan which aims to raise routine immunisation coverage by 15 percentage points in 18 months, of which initial results are promising.

Thank you.