

Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

72nd World Health Assembly

Agenda Item: 11.5

Universal Health Coverage

Thank you, Chair.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance stresses that sustainable UHC can be achieved by prioritising primary health care and by expanding the reach of proven public health interventions, such as immunisation, **first to those left furthest behind**. This approach reflects the philosophy and ambition of the SDGs.

Disease prevention, health promotion and community-based services strengthen primary health care and are the foundation for universal health coverage. Leveraging high performing services with multiple touchpoints for integration of health services can help achieve service delivery efficiency alongside optimal quality.

We offer three considerations for the UHC Political Declaration:

1. *Ensure* universal access to cost-effective and preventative interventions that reduce the risk of financial hardship and contribute significantly to the overall affordability and sustainability of UHC. For example, immunisation would help prevent 24 million households in LMICs from slipping into poverty by 2030.¹
2. *Increase* equitable and inclusive access to health services to those left furthest behind, particularly in urban, remote rural and conflict-affected areas, by sustaining responsive health systems. For example, with 85% global coverage for boys and girls, immunisation constitutes a strong platform upon which UHC can be built.
3. *Mobilise* adequate and sustainable resources for health, including increased domestic resources and aligned development assistance, and ensure their efficient and equitable allocation to primary health care through good health sector governance.

We look forward to supporting an ambitious and action oriented UHC Political Declaration.

Thank you.

¹ Chang AY, Riumallo-Herl C, Perales NA, et al. The equity impact vaccines may have on averting deaths and medical impoverishment in developing countries. Health Affairs. 2018 Feb 1;37(2):316-24.