

WHA76 (Committee A) – Agenda item 13.1: *Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage and preparations for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage*

Statement by Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, welcomes the focus of the Director General's report on priority areas for action including more and better financing for UHC, reorienting health systems towards Primary Health Care and using equity-oriented data to leave no one behind. Gavi stands ready to continue supporting Member States and partners in these areas as they relate to our mission of leaving no one behind with immunisation.

Between 2019 and 2022, 48 million children in the world did not receive a single vaccine. These children, also known as zero dose, live in communities that are facing several forms of deprivation and are affected by extreme poverty, forced displacement or natural disasters.

As routine immunisation is one of the most efficient and cost-effective health care interventions, which brings most households into contact with health systems, it provides a powerful platform to co-deliver other Primary Health Care services and advance UHC efforts.

While there seems to be consensus around its key role in achieving UHC, we note that routine immunisation is missing in the language of the resolution (EB152/CONF./7) recommended by the WHO Executive Board in January.

As countries continue their efforts to catch-up on routine immunisation Gavi encourages Members States and partners to:

- Prioritise reaching zero dose children and missed communities with routine immunisation.
- Leverage routine immunisation as a platform to build resilient PHC systems that lead to UHC.
- Ensure that health workers, especially community health workers, are appropriately remunerated and granted safe and decent work conditions, including gendered policies on equal pay, safeguarding including sexual harassment and leadership opportunities for women.
- Include civil society, communities and local partners in the design and implementation of national UHC policies to foster trust and make health systems more transparent and accountable.

Thank you.