WHO EB146
Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
Agenda Item: 15

Public Health Emergencies: preparedness and response

Thank you Chair.

Ongoing disease outbreaks are stark reminders of the complex and geographical challenges facing the global health community.

Extending routine immunisation to “zero-dose” children – those who are not receiving any vaccines - can prevent outbreaks of preventable diseases in the first place. This approach can also help prioritise investments needed to strengthen country capacities in relation to International Health Regulations.

In December 2019, the Gavi Board approved an investment of US$ 178 million to create a global stockpile of about 500,000 licensed Ebola vaccines for the next five years.

Building on WHO recommendations, this investment will support targeted preventative vaccination of high-risk populations in countries at risk of a potential Ebola outbreak.

Gavi calls upon Member States to:

- Prioritise routine immunisation and people-centred primary health care in national strategies for universal health coverage and national development plans to strengthen health systems resilience.
- Support country governments to strengthen the focus of primary healthcare for low coverage communities and prioritise interventions and investments that benefit zero dose children, to prevent disease outbreaks and health emergencies.

Thank you.