

**WHO Executive Board 154**

**Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**

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**Agenda Item 13 – Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global responses**

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Antimicrobial resistance is an urgent global health and socioeconomic crisis that threatens the core of modern medicine. Sustained political attention and the utilisation of all effective measures to tackle AMR is paramount.

The true value and potential of vaccines in preventing AMR has long been under-recognized and the vast majority of national AMR plans do not include immunisation as a tool for preventing and reducing AMR.

This is despite the fact that vaccines are considered one of the most cost-effective ways of preventing morbidity and mortality and are an important tool in tackling AMR.

Vaccination helps to prevent AMR in three ways.

Firstly, certain vaccines can prevent bacterial infections commonly acquired by the general population. This helps by protecting individuals and their communities from diseases while reducing the need for antibiotics, decreasing opportunities for bacteria to develop resistance and the transmission of antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Secondly, vaccines help to prevent bacterial infections commonly acquired in hospitals and other health settings.

Thirdly, vaccines help to prevent viral infections. This is important as a large proportion of unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions occur for patients who have viral infections.

Gavi, urges member states to prioritise the strengthening of vaccination programs within their respective national AMR plans as a preventative measure, and urges the redoubling of efforts to reach those who do not have access to vaccination, particularly the 14.3 million zero-dose children and their communities who are at the highest risk of disease.

As the global community looks towards the September UN High-Level Meeting on AMR, Gavi stands ready to engage and support Member States in tackling antimicrobial resistance.