

**WHO Executive Board 154**

**Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**

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**Agenda Item 22 – Climate Change, Pollution and Health**

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, welcomes the Director General's report and shares his concerns about the need for countries to develop and implement a national adaptation plan for health, as only a few national or international health actors are allocating the necessary resources to climate action.

Yet, the impact of climate change on infectious diseases, many of which are vaccine preventable, is disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable and marginalised communities, especially those living in low-income countries.

Gavi is also concerned that, while the footprint of the health sector globally is 4.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, over 70% come from the healthcare supply chain alone, which indicates a clear need for mitigation efforts.

Building on the unprecedented political momentum created by the hosting of the first health day at COP28, including the adoption of a first-ever Declaration on Climate and Health, the upcoming World Health Assembly provides a critical opportunity for Member States to translate agreed principles into concrete commitments.

Gavi calls on Member States and partners to:

- 1) Incorporate public health measures in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to ensure that climate and health policies are tailored to the local environmental and epidemiological context.
- 2) Strengthen surveillance and vulnerability assessments of climate-sensitive diseases and build associated immunisation programmes.
- 3) Decarbonise health supply chains and procurement as part of the broader effort to build climate resilient, low-carbon, and sustainable health systems.