

WHO Executive Board 154

Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

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Agenda Item 9 – Immunization Agenda 2030

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a founding member of the IA2030 partnership. We are committed to contributing to the Action Agenda included in the report and look forward to celebrating 50 years of the Essential Programmes on Immunisation in 2024.

Despite initial signs of recovery in global immunisation, global coverage rates of DTP3 vaccines still hover below the 2019 pre-COVID-19 pandemic rates, and 14.3 million zero-dose children – almost one and a half million more than in 2019 - still do not have access to a single dose of vaccine.

The Immunisation Agenda 2030's target of reducing the number of zero-dose children by 50% by 2030 is ambitious and urgent. There is no time to waste as zero-dose children and their communities are the most vulnerable to outbreaks and death.

We would also like to shine light on important opportunities to introduce and scale up vaccines alongside routine immunisation efforts.

Gavi will continue to support countries to dramatically expand HPV vaccination, aiming to reach 86 million adolescent girls by 2025 and help prevent over 1.4 million future deaths from cervical cancer.

Gavi will also support twelve African countries by rolling out 18 million doses of the first ever malaria vaccine through 2025 - a critical step forward in the fight against this deadly disease.

To conclude, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, encourages Member States to:

- Invest in strengthening routine immunisation systems, fill immunity gaps widened by the COVID-19 pandemic and reach zero dose children and their communities as part of the 'Big Catch Up' and UHC efforts.
- Consider introducing malaria vaccines in malaria endemic countries as part of comprehensive malaria control plans.
- Introduce and/or scale up coverage of HPV vaccination, particularly amongst adolescent girls.