

Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

--

Agenda item 7 – Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

--

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, welcomes the Director-General's report while echoing its concerns on the stalling progress presented.

Infectious diseases continue to make a disproportionate contribution to NCDs and disabilities among the world's poorest populations, many of which can be prevented through immunisation.

Examples include vaccines against human papillomavirus (HPV) to prevent cervical cancer, vaccines against Hepatitis B to prevent liver cancer and cirrhosis, and vaccines against measles, meningitis, and rubella to prevent visual-auditory loss, cardiac problems, and brain damage.

HPV vaccines continue to be a very powerful tool to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem. In 2023, Gavi launched its HPV vaccine revitalisation programme, which aims to fully immunise 86 million adolescent girls by 2025, preventing 1.4 million future deaths from cervical cancer.

With Gavi support, over 40 countries have introduced the HPV vaccine to date, and 27.3 million girls have received the vaccine by the end of 2023. We are currently on track to reach our 2025 target.

Gavi aims to reach 120 million more girls with the HPV vaccine from 2026-2030, helping save 1.5 million lives.

As Member States prepare to engage in the Third High-Level Meeting on NCDs, Gavi recommends the following:

- Recognise and strengthen national immunisation systems within primary health care to reach marginalized populations as a critical component in the fight against NCDs.
- Support introduction, scale-up and equitable access to the HPV vaccine as part of WHO's global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer by 2030.

ENDS