73rd World Health Assembly
Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

COVID-19

Thank you Chair

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens years of progress in Primary Health Care.

- In Gavi countries, over 73% of target vaccine introductions and campaigns for 2020 have been delayed, suspended or are at risk.

- We are faced with emergence of other vaccine preventable disease outbreaks such as measles, yellow fever and Polio.

- The pandemic will disproportionately impact women, vulnerable, marginalized communities as well as “zero-dose children”, those who do not receive any routine vaccine.

As an Alliance built on the principle of equity Gavi is taking urgent action to support countries to maintain and restore immunisation programmes. We are also part of the ACT-Accelerator, co-leading the work to achieve global access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Gavi has two specific asks:

1. **Support global access to COVID-19 vaccines** – a vaccine is the best hope for the world to get back to some semblance of normalcy, and no one is protected until everyone is.

2. **Support and call for a fully funded Gavi replenishment on June 4**, this will be critical to our work with countries to immunise children, implement the Immunisation Agenda 2030, save lives, reduce poverty and protect the world against the threat of epidemics. A fully funded Gavi is critical for the deployment of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Finally, Gavi would like to express profound appreciation for the work of healthworkers, nurses and midwives and thank them for their extraordinary dedication and service to humanity.

Thank you