



Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
ETHIOPIA ON IMMUNIZATION AGENDA 2030**

Provisional agenda item: 11.3 - Document A73/7

Thank you, Chair

Ethiopia welcomes the report of the Director General on the Global action plan which underscored the urgent need to develop a new global vision and strategy for vaccines and immunization in order to accelerate progress and ensure a smooth transition away from the global vaccine action plan.

Immunization is a global health and development success story, saving millions of lives every year. It is a key component of primary health care and an indisputable human right. It's also one of the best health investments money can buy.

Looking at the vision of the Decade of Vaccines, though many of the GVAP targets are very unlikely to be met in our region by the end of 2020, substantial progress has nevertheless been made, establishing a strong foundation for a successor global immunization strategy, the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030). Furthermore, many of the 'failures' to achieve targets reflect highly challenging circumstances particularly the impact of conflict, political instability, and displacement, migration, urbanization and vaccine hesitancy and now COVID 19 which emerged as major challenges through the decade.

While building Strong and resilient health and immunization systems are vital to continue delivering vaccines to all the children who need them, RI is now, under serious threat from the COVID-19 pandemic as health workers are increasingly focused on COVID-19 response, and the uptake of immunization services is decreasing due fear of transmission. As a result progress made in recent year can easily back slide.

Africa will be hard hit by the projected medium to long-term social and economic impacts of the pandemic", as UNECA projected. That is why we need all the support we can get to weather the storm. That is also why we need solidarity more than ever before. To this end ensuring equitable access to SARS-COV2 vaccine in the fight against COVID-19 is single most important immediate take home assignment to global stakeholders as we are living in the era of global interdependence.

Before concluding, I would like to thank Gavi for the commitment to invest on strengthening health systems and ensuring universal immunization coverage, and I would like to reiterate that Ethiopia is committed to the continuation of essential services including immunization activities despite the current demands of COVID-19 response, which is not a choice rather it is a responsibility that we take seriously.

Thank you,