

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

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Thank you Chair

Strong routine immunisation and primary health care is needed to support pandemic preparedness and response and strengthen global health security. This is the key factor to prevent outbreaks in the first place, and build country capacities to enable early detection of, and early response to, outbreaks when they occur. The COVID-19 pandemic is also a stark reminder of the importance to prioritise reaching children and communities facing multiple deprivations, including with routine immunisation and other preventive health interventions. It is crucial to build resilient health systems that leaves no one behind.

Gavi calls upon Member States to:

1. Prioritise efforts to measurably maintain, restore and strengthen immunisation and other high impact PHC services as part of the response to COVID-19, to prevent further VPD outbreaks.
2. Prioritise investments in routine immunisation, people-centred and equitable primary health care in national strategies for UHC and national development plans to strengthen health system resilience and to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and future health emergencies.

Thank you