

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

Polio eradication, transition planning and post-certification

Thank you Chair

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance congratulates Africa and partners for achieving a historical milestone of eradicating wild polio from the continent.

The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to routine immunisation are however threatening global progress to protect children against polio and other vaccine preventable diseases, thereby increasing the risk of their resurgence and spreading to countries that are now polio-free.

To achieve and maintain a world free of polio, our collective efforts must prioritize achieving a comprehensive and equitable routine immunisation coverage to the zero-dose and missed communities.

Gavi calls upon Member States to:

1. Integrate co-delivery of polio vaccines with other vaccines and primary health care interventions - in VPD surveillance, service delivery, community mobilisation, and outbreak response measures that strengthen components of routine immunisation systems.
2. Accelerate the development of nationally-owned polio transition plans and leverage the experience and expertise of polio-funded assets – to strengthen routine immunisation coverage and the delivery of routine polio with other lifesaving vaccines.

Thank you