

## **Statement by the Republic of Rwanda**

### **Agenda 11.4: Accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem**

Rwanda's health system interventions have always been built on a multisectoral approach, a human right approach, an equity-based approach, and most importantly an evidence-based approach. Accordingly, since 2011, Rwanda successfully introduced the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine nationwide, achieving near-universal access to it through a strategic, collaborative, and multisectoral campaign.

Questions about the cost-effectiveness of delivering this vaccine were answered and a global success example stands today by Rwanda showing how a high will and political engagement combined by community support and strong partners have helped Rwanda achieve a coverage rate of 97% for the HPV vaccine in young girls aged 12 years by 2019.

Rwanda is now poised to speed up the roll out of cervical cancer screening and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions in 30-49 years old women in all health facilities integrating them into existing services with a focus on maternal and child health and HIV services. We are optimistic to achieve the second elimination target even before 2030.

We confirm again Rwanda's commitment to upgrading the national cancer treatment capacity, through establishing cancer centres of excellence run by well-trained oncology personnel with a goal of treating Rwandans in Rwanda by Rwandans.

We are confident that with these new developments in improving cancer treatment capacity together with our strong health insurance schemes, we will be able to provide a quality treatment to 90% of women with invasive cervical cancer by 2030.

All of which has been clearly articulated in the National Cancer Control Plan 2019-2024 and NCD Strategy and Costed Action plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs (2020–2025)

Finally, we would like to reiterate support to the now endorsed global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer and call upon development actors, vaccine manufacturers, civil society organisations, researchers, and health professionals to support it; and popularize the HPV vaccine as a means to advance all other universal health coverage goals.

Thank you!