Gavi Statement on Agenda 17 COVID-19 and Pandemic Preparedness

WHA 74

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

COVID-19 has highlighted the severe inequities associated with access to vaccines to address a global pandemic. It has also highlighted the contribution of routine immunisation and strong health systems to pandemic preparedness and response efforts. COVID-19's immense social consequences are felt every community and every country on earth and have caused an estimated USD 11.5 trillion economic loss.

COVAX is the only globally-coordinated effort to guarantee fair, equitable and timely access to safe and efficacious vaccines. COVAX has delivered over 67.3 million doses to 124 economies globally. With more financing available we can deliver 1.8 billion doses and protect 30% of population in AMC countries by 2022.

Gavi calls upon Member States to:

- *Support COVAX by:* i) *Raising* an additional USD 1.6 billion by June 2021 to deliver 1.8 billion doses by 2022, ii) *Sharing* COVID-19 vaccines through COVAX, iii) *Removing* trade barriers, export control measures, and other transit issues to ensure distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and ingredients to those most in need, iv) *Support* technology transfer and ramp up of manufacturing capacity to ensure equitable access

- *Include* populations with a higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms and the most vulnerable, regardless of their legal, social and economic status, in COVID-19 national vaccination plans and in line with the SAGE recommendations.

- *Maintain, restore and strengthen* routine immunisation, prioritise reaching zero-dose children and marginalised communities including through greater focus on community engagement, to strengthen health security and pandemic preparedness.
- *Strengthen* pathogen surveillance and reporting capacity to ensure high coverage of diagnostic services on a subnational level and timely detection of outbreaks.

Thank you