Gavi Statement on Agenda 21 Poliomyelitis

WHA 74

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic to routine and supplemental immunisation have made some 13.5 million children in 13 of the world's lower income countries miss out on vaccinations for polio and other vaccine preventable diseases, increasing the risk of their resurgence.

Gavi welcomes and supports the revised GPEI Polio Endgame strategy and its alignment with the Immunization Agenda 2030 and Gavi's new 5-year strategy. The shared importance of reaching zero-dose children and missed communities with comprehensive and equitable immunisation services is the point of convergence between Gavi and GPEI and should serve as the lynchpin for the revised strategy to achieve a world free of wild and vaccine-derived poliovirus.

In addition, Gavi appreciates WHO's commitment and assurance that polio transition will be planned and carried out in a manner that safeguards required core capacities in vulnerable countries to ensure the work and investments necessary to achieve eradication.

We call upon Member States to:

- Fully implement the revised Polio Endgame Strategy – giving particular importance to integrated coordination, planning and service delivery approaches to reach zero-dose children and communities with other vaccines and primary health care interventions;
- Intensify efforts to place communities at the centre of eradication and immunization strengthening activities by developing comprehensive, data drive and contextually—appropriate engagement strategies;
- Accelerate transition of polio-essential functions into national systems, leveraging the experience and expertise of polio-funded assets – to strengthen routine immunisation coverage and the delivery of lifesaving vaccines, including polio vaccines.

Thank you