Gavi Statement for the WHA 74 Plenary

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The COVID-19 pandemic has cost the world economy USD 11.5 trillion, pushed an additional 163 million people into poverty and disrupted achievement of the SDGs.

Nearly 10 million children, living in communities facing multiple deprivations, do not receive the most basic vaccines every year. Their number has likely grown due to the pandemic. Reaching them with routine immunisation is critical for equity, to support primary health care and for global health security.

Access to COVID-19 vaccines, including through COVAX underpins achieving these goals, is the only way to avoid social and economic consequences and builds resilience.

Gavi calls upon Member States to:

- *Rebuild, safeguard and strengthen* routine immunisation to avoid backsliding and secure progress to fight polio, measles, Ebola and yellow fever, and strengthen pandemic preparedness.
- *Remove* export control measures and other transit issues hampering supply and movement of COVID-19 vaccines and ingredients, and ensure their equitable distribution prioritising those most in need.
- *Help* urgently mobilise USD 1.6 billion and an additional USD 1 billion in cost sharing through domestic resources, and MDBs support by June 2021 to ensure at least 1.8 billion COVID-19 vaccines are secured and delivered to 92 lower-income economies by 2022.
- *Share* COVID-19 vaccines with COVAX to ensure donations have the maximum benefit for countries with the most needs.
- *Support* technology transfer through exchange of information and know-how between vaccine developers and manufacturers to scale up vaccine production.

Thank you