

World Health Assembly 77

Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

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Agenda item 11.4: Immunization Agenda 2030

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Essential Programmes on Immunization, the routine immunisation programme that brought lifesaving vaccines to a significant portion of the world population and saved nearly 154 million lives in the last 50 years – more than 3 million lives every year.

Despite immense geopolitical tensions and all sorts of challenges over the past decades, more children are surviving today than ever before, with the global under-five mortality rate declining by 51% since 2000.

Nevertheless, work still needs to be done to increase vaccination coverage globally, as 14.3 million children have not received any single dose of any vaccine in 2022. This is why it is urgent for countries to prioritise investments in immunisation and accelerate efforts towards the Immunisation Agenda 2030's target of reducing the number of zero-dose children by 50% by 2030.

As Gavi's new Investment Opportunity is unveiled on 20 June, we are also counting on the support of all donors and partners to achieve even greater milestones in our next strategic period.

Finally, Gavi calls upon Member States to:

1. Prioritise investments in routine immunisation and reaching zero dose children to ensure equitable access to vaccines.
2. Introduce and scale up coverage of HPV vaccination and consider switching to one-dose, prioritising the uptake by adolescent girls aged 9 to 14 years old, in line with WHO's Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer.
3. Consider introducing malaria vaccines in malaria endemic areas as part of comprehensive malaria control plans.