

World Health Assembly 77

Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

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Agenda item 13: Public health emergencies: preparedness and response

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The COVID-19 pandemic had an unprecedented impact on populations across the globe: it caught the world by surprise with incredibly high numbers of hospitalizations and deaths and significantly disrupted essential health services, reversing decades of progress in socio economic development.

Alongside significant impacts to routine immunisation, the COVID-19 crisis revealed several challenges for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR), negatively impacting timely access to pandemic vaccines for populations of lower-income countries.

Building on our collective learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic, Gavi has been actively engaged in ongoing multilateral processes to improve the global health emergency architecture, including in the Pandemic Agreement Intergovernmental Negotiating Body process.

Gavi commends the work of Member States and Relevant Stakeholders for their tireless commitment and progress on critical areas of the Pandemic Agreement and encourage them to continue with the negotiations after WHA77 with the same dedication to ensure the world is better prepared for a more equitable response in the future.

Gavi stands ready to support Member States in this effort and urges countries to:

1. Ensure the final Pandemic Agreement recognises immunisation as an essential foundation for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.
2. Reach consensus on a PABS system that ensures fair and timely access to vaccines during future pandemics.
3. Support the creation of a Coordinating Financial Mechanism that integrates specialized agencies with existing PPPR funds, so that critical investments can be made sustainable, at-risk and from day zero for the next pandemic.
4. Ensure a whole-of-society approach is central to governance and accountability.