

World Health Assembly 77

Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

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Agenda item 15.4: Climate change, pollution and health

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, welcomes the draft resolution on “climate change and health”, which recognises the importance for countries to detect and respond to climate sensitive diseases, many of which can be prevented by vaccination.

We also welcome the emphasis on the need for countries to conduct periodic climate and health vulnerability assessments in the process of developing a health national adaptation plan.

National adaptation plans, in turn, must include preventive health interventions, such as immunisation, to help communities, particularly the most marginalised, build resilience against climate-sensitive diseases, and reduce the strain put on health systems.

Those measures, however, need to go hand in hand with the decarbonisation of health systems to ensure sustainability.

Together with WHO and UNICEF, Gavi is supporting the deployment of solar energy systems to health facilities in underserved communities, which is improving delivery of essential health services and promoting their climate resilience.

Gavi is also committed to working with countries, partners and the private sector in developing time-bound commitments for the decarbonisation of supply chains and procurement of vaccines.

To conclude, we call upon Member States and partners to:

1. Incorporate immunisation into health national adaptation plans, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, and other adaptation planning strategies.
2. Support decarbonisation of health systems, supply chains and procurement, as part of the broader effort to build climate resilient, low-carbon, and sustainable health systems.