

Committee A

Agenda item 11.4: Immunization Agenda 2030

Delegation: Grenada

The Grenada is pleased to deliver a statement on Immunization agenda 2030.

Grenada has a strong history of immunization which permitted the achievement and maintenance of the elimination of measles, polio, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome among others. However, this status is being challenged because of vaccine hesitancy due to the spread of misinformation causing mistrust of vaccines. This was made worse during the Covid 19 Pandemic. Following the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine there was a notable decrease in the routine childhood vaccine uptake.

The Government of Grenada in collaboration with PAHO and UNICEF recently commenced deliberate actions to improve national vaccination coverage. In November 2023, we launched the “Be a VIP” Campaign; “V” for Vaccinated, “I” for Immunized and “P” for Protected.

This campaign focuses on raising community awareness of the importance of Childhood Immunization through an active communication strategy and outreach mechanisms. The creation of a jingle, Public Service Announcements using influential people and country wide mop-up vaccinations were some of the activities undertaken.

Some initial positive outcomes of this campaign were observed. Since its launch in November 2023, a 10% improvement was recorded in DPT 3rd dose and Polio vaccine coverage.

Mindful of the need to protect vulnerable groups in our population, Grenada is now preparing to introduce Pneumococcal and Rotavirus Vaccines during this year.

We are appreciative of the support provided by PAHO, which includes technical expertise and access to vaccines through the Revolving Fund. We also recognize the hard work of our Community Nursing Division for their successful management of the Expanded Programme on Immunization over the years.

Grenada remains committed to immunization and to improving our vaccination coverage through strategies in line with the “Big Catch Up” Initiative.

Thank you

