

OMS - 77.ª Assembleia Mundial da Saúde

Madame Chair,

Excellences,

We align ourselves with the WHO Immunization Agenda 2030, as well as with the WHO's 14th General Programme of Work, believing that they represent key guidelines for countries to prioritize preventive health, ultimately alleviating pressures on their health systems and facilitating progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Portuguese NVP is a universal, free program accessible to everyone in Portugal since 1965. In 2023, vaccination coverage for all NVP-recommended vaccines remains high: 99% by the first year of life and over 95% in subsequent years. We consistently exceed the 95% target for measles and rubella vaccinations. Since 2022, we have also met or exceeded the 95% target for meningococcal group B vaccination, introduced in October 2020. HPV vaccination for females, introduced in 2008, maintains a 90% coverage by age 12 and 95% by age 15. By 2023, HPV vaccination for males, introduced in October 2020, has reached the same coverage level as for females. The 2023-2024 Seasonal Vaccination Campaigns expand free influenza vaccination to those aged 60-64 and include vaccinations in pharmacies to improve access.

Sustained and excellent vaccination results within the NVP are the result of the daily efforts and dedication of healthcare professionals, as well as the trust of the population. We strongly believe that we cannot afford to lose all the health and social achievements that immunization has enabled us to attain.

However, the current situation presents increasing challenges that are also experienced by other countries and regions. There are differences in vaccination coverage across the territory and vaccine hesitancy in specific populations is starting to come to surface, despite access being guaranteed to every resident and without restrictions or difficulties.

Portugal is committed to address these challenges by putting its efforts in the transformation and modernization of disease surveillance, information systems, vaccination monitoring, identification of susceptible populations, and promoting social mobilization. Our goal continues to be - to ensure vaccines reach everyone, for the benefit of all.

We thank you.