



The Republic of Zambia

ZAMBIA'S STATEMENT ON IMMUNISATION AGENDA 2030

Thank you, Chairperson, I am grateful for the opportunity to address this Assembly on agenda item 11.4, concerning Zambia's efforts towards achieving the goals outlined in the Immunisation Agenda 2030. We align our statement with that delivered by Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo on behalf of the 47 member states of the African region. This assembly coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI).

Since 1974, Zambia has made remarkable strides in ensuring equitable access to life-saving vaccines for every child, regardless of geographic or socioeconomic status. We now protect against 14 diseases, adopting a life-course approach that includes HPV, cholera, and COVID-19 vaccines and we have maintained polio-free status since 2005, conducting multiple Supplementary Immunisation Activities to limit the spread of poliovirus. Further, we achieved tetanus elimination in 2007 and during the COVID-19 pandemic we managed to rapidly scale up covid19 vaccination to cover more than 80% of the targeted population.

Zambia's immunisation programme aligns with the Global Immunisation Agenda 2030, aiming for a world where everyone benefits from vaccines for good health and well-being. Despite our successes, we face challenges such

as a decline in immunisation coverage due to the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, vaccine supply issues, and limited financing.

To address these challenges and get back on track, we propose:

1. Support and technical assistance towards enhancing digital platforms to track and reach children who missed vaccinations in the past five years.
2. Strengthening partnerships for immunisation financing by securing domestic and foreign investments for vaccines, cold chain, human resources, and operational needs.
3. Partnerships with local manufacturers to develop and produce vaccines locally to address supply gaps and affordability.
4. Integration of COVID-19 Vaccination by building more resilient health systems focused on primary health care.
5. Targeted Advocacy towards political commitment, community engagement, and civil society participation to sustain support for the immunisation programme.

We urge global partners to support these efforts and to strengthen political and financial commitments to immunization within integrated primary health care systems.

Thank you, Chairperson