

World Health Assembly 78

Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

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Agenda item 13.1 – Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, welcomes the Director-General's report and echoes the urgent need to accelerate efforts in preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases.

Recent data shows that up to 8.3% of the global burden of NCDs is attributed to infectious causes. Notably, 13% of cancers are linked to bacteria or viruses.

For example, the human papillomavirus is the direct cause of most cases of cervical cancer, the fourth most common cause of cancer among women worldwide. As we know, this virus also causes other cancers. In 2022, Chronic hepatitis B infection has resulted in 1.1 million global deaths.

Vaccines exist against several of the infectious causes of NCDs. The HPV vaccine can prevent 90% of cervical cancer cases, while research shows that universal hepatitis B birth dose vaccination could prevent 38 million deaths among people born between 2000 and 2030 in 98 low- and middle-income countries.

Gavi calls upon Member States to:

- Commit to achieving global targets to eliminate infectious causes of NCDs, including ending viral hepatitis epidemics and cervical cancer elimination by 2030.
- Integrate vaccination against infectious diseases responsible for cancer, chronic conditions and disabilities —such as human papillomavirus and viral hepatitis — into routine immunisation and national responses and elimination strategies to NCDs.
- Increase affordability, availability and equitable access to cost-effective NCD interventions, including medicines, diagnostics, screening and vaccines as a contribution to Universal Health Coverage.