



**Republic of the Gambia
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul**

SEVENTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER, GENEVA 2026

Agenda Item: 12.3	Communicable disease: Immunization agenda 2030: Mid-term review
Documents	A79/5
Action requested	Note the report
Time limit:	2 MINS
Commission	A

Dear Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to address this honorable assembly as we celebrate the 79th Anniversary of the World Health Organization. The Gambia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Nigeria on behalf of African region group.

We thank the Director General for the report on immunization agenda 2030 and commend the leadership of WHO secretariat on the fight against to control, eliminate or eradicate diseases including vaccine preventable diseases.

The Gambia was already implementing components of the Immunization Agenda 2030 before the vision and strategy was conceived in 2020. Coincidentally it is committed to and on course to achieving and maintaining high DPT3/Penta 3 coverage The country started introducing new and underused WHO prequalified lifesaving vaccines as early as 1990 and in 1997 the country introduced Hepatitis B and Hib into the routine vaccination schedule. This was subsequently followed by Pneumococcal Vaccine (PCV), Rota virus, and Men A in 2013 and 2019 respectively. Furthermore, switching from DPT to Penta and from Measles only

containing vaccine to combined Measles and Rubella (MR) is also aligned with IA2030.

Furthermore, The Gambia extended immunization service to adolescent girls (9-14 years) in 2019 by introducing HPV into routine immunization.

This is a major milestone in the to prevent cervical cancer the commonest cause of cancer and cancer deaths among women. COVID-19 is included in the national immunization schedule.

Government continues demonstration highest political commitment by meeting its co-financing obligation with Gavi for the new vaccines, while single handedly funding the procurement of routine vaccine for the country.

Thank you