

Trinidad and Tobago Intervention
under Item 12.3 – Communicable diseases: Immunization Agenda 2030
79th World Health Assembly, 18 to 23 May 2026

Thank you, Chair.

Trinidad and Tobago thanks the Director-General for the report on the implementation and mid-term review of the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030), under agenda item 12.3 on communicable diseases.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its strong commitment to the vision of IA2030 to ensure that everyone, everywhere, at every age fully benefits from vaccines for good health and well-being. Immunization remains one of the most effective and cost-efficient public health interventions and continues to be a national priority.

At a country-level, Trinidad and Tobago has maintained a robust Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) with high national coverage for most routine childhood vaccines despite the significant disruptions experienced during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Health (MOH) continues to strengthen routine immunization services through fixed-site, outreach and school-based vaccination programmes, including the administration of HPV vaccines through the School Health Programme.

We have also continued efforts to improve surveillance for vaccine-preventable diseases, strengthen cold chain systems, enhance vaccine logistics management, and build workforce capacity through ongoing training initiatives. Trinidad and Tobago further recognizes the importance of risk communication and community engagement in addressing vaccine hesitancy and misinformation.

We note with concern the global and regional decline in vaccination coverage and the re-emergence of vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles. Small Island Developing States remain vulnerable to disruptions in vaccine supply chains, limited economies of scale, climate-related emergencies, and human resource constraints. These challenges underscore the need for sustained international cooperation and equitable access to affordable vaccines and immunization technologies.

Trinidad and Tobago supports the strategic priorities outlined in the IA2030 mid-term review and emphasizes the following areas:

1. Strengthening primary health care and integrated immunization services to reach underserved and vulnerable populations;
2. Enhancing surveillance systems and laboratory capacity for early detection and response to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases;

3. Addressing vaccine hesitancy through evidence-based communication strategies and community partnerships;
4. Ensuring equitable and sustainable access to vaccines, including newer and combination vaccines, particularly for small island developing states and middle-income countries; and
5. Strengthening regional collaboration through mechanisms coordinated by the Pan American Health Organization and other partners to improve procurement, technical cooperation and emergency preparedness.

Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to achieving the targets of Immunization Agenda 2030 and to working collaboratively with the WHO, PAHO, and all partners to protect populations from vaccine-preventable diseases and advance universal health coverage.

Thank you.