

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

*Peace – Work – Fatherland*

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RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

*Paix – Travail – Patrie*

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It cannot be overemphasized that vaccination is the most cost-effective health strategy. It yields an unparalleled return on investment from the economic perspective, and its public health impact is clearly perceived in terms of number of deaths prevented and, hence, lives saved. Moreover, vaccination campaigns, when conducted according to standard practice, have positive impacts on the health system as a whole, strengthening and reinforcing each of its pillars.

Thus, vaccination is, so to speak, a veritable health weapon of mass prevention and protection, which humanity in its entirety must strive unrelentingly to promote as a global public good for the benefit of all. This inevitably requires an appropriate and sustainable mechanism for financing vaccination. Such, in my view, is the key issue at stake at this Global Vaccine Summit.

In this regard, it is worth recalling that it is due to the lack of a vaccine that COVID-19 has, in recent months, undermined the health systems of virtually all countries, whether developed or not. This devastating pandemic has reminded the international community of the vital role of vaccination as a genuine factor of health and social equity.

At this juncture, I would like to commend the extraordinary action of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, which has, in barely twenty years of existence, established itself as a vehicle for active international solidarity. Its record, in terms of number of deaths prevented and lives saved, commands admiration and requires all to rally round its initiatives.

For my part, I would like to attest that, thanks to the multifaceted and substantial support of GAVI Alliance, my country Cameroon proudly provides, free of charge, through its Expanded Programme on Immunization, a wide array of immunization services to all its children aged 0 to 59 months and all expectant mothers.

Preserving and saving lives through immunization is not only a lofty calling; it is an imperative which would be unacceptable for States or the international community not to fulfil diligently. Accordingly, I solemnly appeal for the mobilization of all the resources necessary for the optimum implementation of GAVI Alliance's next programme cycle.

In this connection, I am pleased to announce that Cameroon is pledging an amount of USD 1 million as new funding for GAVI and as contribution towards attaining the USD 7.4 billion 2020 campaign objective.

**Paul BIYA**  
**President of the Republic of Cameroon**  
**The Global Vaccine Summit**  
**London, 3 – 4 June 2020**