

UNGA 73

First UN High-level Meeting on Ending TB

26 SEPTEMBER 2018 New York

Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Thank you Chair,

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance welcomes this first ever HLM on TB and supports the urgent efforts for the political prioritisation of the disease, which could lead to millions of lives being saved from premature deaths caused by the scourge of TB. The burden of infectious diseases, including TB, unjustifiably and disproportionately continues to compromise the lives, health and development of populations living in low resource settings, and poses a threat to health security globally.

To respond, innovative approaches are needed that systematically focus on the poorest and most marginalised, including the urban poor, and those in remote rural, fragile and conflict settings. Gavi is committed to saving children's lives and protecting people's health through supporting strengthening immunisation and health services, contributing to strong PHC systems and UHC. Critically, improving TB prevention and care must be included in these efforts.

Multidrug-resistant TB is becoming, increasingly, a public health crisis and a major threat to health security. Gavi calls upon all governments to allocate resources, strengthen systems and invest in health research and development with an Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)-lens – giving their commitment to both combat disease and prevent super bugs from threatening global health security and national development.

Cross-sectoral partnerships are highly important for the equitable roll out of new health interventions. The Gavi partnership model, with market-shaping power and a commitment to innovative technology, serves as an example to Member states, the TB community and wider partners on novel approaches for making prevention and care more accessible and affordable.

Going forward, as new innovations in TB vaccines become available – especially against the most common form of pulmonary TB - the Gavi Alliance is ready to be part of these efforts. The partnership model provides a proven mechanism for countries to access suitable products at affordable prices and strengthen systems for the equitable distribution of effective health interventions. Through multi-sectoral scale-up efforts to integrate novel TB services within a comprehensive system of health, Gavi aims to help improve the health of the hardest to reach populations and leave no one behind.