



Agenda item 8: Global vaccine action plan

PATH statement at the 146th session of the World Health Organization Executive Board, 3-8 February 2020, Geneva, Switzerland

Thank you Chair and distinguished delegates for this opportunity. As a long-standing partner to WHO and many member states in this room on the development, introduction, and scaling of vaccines, PATH is pleased to see the immunization agenda remain front and center. Vaccination is one of the most impactful and cost-effective health interventions we have, as exemplified by the MenAfriVac meningitis A vaccine. By 2020, this vaccine will protect over 400 million people.

While the world has taken great strides in the field of immunization, PATH is pleased that we are collectively taking this moment to reflect on how we can do the job better in the next decade. To that end, we offer the following thoughts:

1. Immunization programming is a key component and entry point for primary health care, and we are pleased to see the integrated vision for the future, as well as the life-course approach which intersects with the cervical cancer elimination strategy.
2. We call on member states to appropriately increase domestic funding levels for immunization within the context of primary health care and universal health care goals. Recognizing the eventuality of funding transitions, we call on WHO to assist member states in long-term planning for these needs.
3. Finally, we greatly appreciate the resolution's acknowledgment of the need for investment in vaccine R&D. We do not have all the vaccines we need to prevent diseases that threaten health and well-being globally. It is also important that the focus on innovation include the full spectrum of innovations that support immunization programs, from delivery technologies, to new vaccines, to novel approaches to service delivery. Vaccines are only useful if they reach those who need them, and many different types of innovation are necessary to achieve that efficiently and effectively.