

Statement by Mercy Ahun, Gavi's Special Representative to GAVI-eligible countries

**Informal interactive hearings on the post-2015 development agenda
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Friends and colleagues, it is an honor for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to be among you today engaged in discussions that will help unite the world further in our efforts to ensure sustainable development. It is by working in partnership that we will hand over a world free of extreme poverty and debilitating diseases - a world where prosperity is shared equitably across the globe.

Equity is at the core of Gavi's business. When global leaders gathered in Berlin exactly four months ago today and pledged in excess of \$7.5 billion to support Gavi's work for the next five years, it was under the banner of 'Reach Every Child'.

Agreeing on a blueprint to deliver the sustainable development goals is simply mission critical. In our Alliance we often say that while what we do is important - **is how we do it** that leads to lasting impact.

Gavi was created in 2000 with an **MDG-inspired mission** to help save children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing access to immunisation in poor countries. The Secretary-General, Ban-Ki Moon, speaks of Gavi as a leading example of a truly global partnership that is delivering specific results.

Let me share with you some reflections on our experience that may inform how we implement the post 2015 agenda.

The Gavi story begins towards the end of the 20th century, **when global immunisation efforts were beginning to plateau.** After rapid growth in the 1980s, vaccine coverage was stagnating and in some places even declining. And even though new life-saving vaccines were becoming available, virtually none were reaching children in developing countries, those who needed them the most.

What was needed was an **entirely new approach.** A unique public-private partnership, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance was created to bring together the best of what key UN agencies, governments, the vaccine industry, private sector and civil society had to offer in order to improve childhood immunisation coverage in poor countries and to accelerate access to new vaccines.

This model was designed to leverage not just financial resources but expertise too, to help make vaccines more affordable, more available and their provision more sustainable, by working towards a point where developing countries can pay for them themselves. It is a **21st century development model for a new millennium** and one which works. By 2015 Gavi has reached 500 million additional children since its creation, preventing more than 7 million deaths in the process.

The mechanism we put in place to ensure meaningful and inclusive participation of our stakeholders is exemplified by our **multi-stakeholder Board**, which helps ensure **partner collaboration and increased accountability**.

Donor governments and implementing country governments are organised in constituencies and **represented in equal numbers** on the Gavi Board.

But one lesson from Gavi is the **need to ensure more equality in intergovernmental discussion**. For example, we have had to explore ways of trying to ensure that the voice of developing country governments is able to be heard. After all, the five Ministers of Health who sit on the Gavi Board have a day job is to run their health services. The five donor government representatives' day job is to manage ODA contributions, including to Gavi.

Let me move to **financing**. Globally we recognise that we need strong ODA commitments, innovative mechanisms to leverage ODA more smartly and we also need domestic financing. Gavi combines all three. **Gavi's resource mobilisation model** is often referred to as the three legged stool. One leg being our donor base including innovative financing mechanisms, the second leg is domestic co-financing and the third leg is market shaping.

The vast majority of GAVI's funds come from **governments** as ODA. Donors have been attracted to Gavi because we help countries to achieve real and measurable results – childrens' lives saved and illness averted. But they are also attracted by our business model and approach to innovation, including in innovative finance, where we make smarter use of ODA commitments.

One of the key innovative initiatives launched by Gavi is the **International Finance Facility for Immunisation**. IFFIm, as it is known, is one of the most successful innovative financing tools of the MDG period. It has leveraged Official Development Assistance to raise more than US\$5 billion in the capital markets over the last decade through the issuance of vaccine bonds.

Thanks to IFFIm's ability to shift funds through time, Gavi has been able to deliver support for new vaccines many years in advance of donor payments, accessing future cash inflows to immunise children today. The flexibility of the mechanism also recently

proved valuable as a potential stand-by funding source to enable Gavi's rapid response to the Ebola crisis.

The GAVI Matching Fund is another innovative way of leveraging additional financing. Every Pound or Dollar or Euro contributed by the private sector is matched by a Pound or Dollar or Euro from the UK Government and the Gates Foundation. This has already resulted in over US\$246 million raised, including the match. As importantly, it has brought private sector expertise into some of our most difficult problem areas like how to improve the vaccine supply chain and improve data sharing.

We are honored that the Mission of Australia and Liberia to the UN are hosting a briefing tomorrow at 1.15 in Conference Room D on Gavi's experience with innovative financing mechanisms. I invite you all to attend.

Moving to that second leg of the Gavi three-legged resource mobilisation stool: Through Gavi's **co-financing policy** all countries contribute a share of the cost of new vaccines, which gradually transfers responsibility for funding the vaccines to the government. The co-financing share of the costs are determined by the governments' ability to pay, which adjusts as a country's economy grows.

The third leg is Gavi's explicit focus on market shaping. The 73 countries to which Gavi offers support make up 60 per cent of the children born around the world each year. By aggregating that birth cohort – and by bringing together large-scale donor financing – **we are transforming the global vaccine market to the benefit of the lowest income countries.** By bringing private and public sector partners together, leveraging ODA in smart ways and taking a market-based approach to development, we are seeking to **ensure sufficient supply of appropriate, quality vaccines at low and sustainable prices.**

Gavi is looking to accelerate our efforts over the coming five years and expect to help developing countries to immunize an **additional 300 million children, leading to 5 to 6 million** more lives saved.

So in conclusion: The Vaccine Alliance is a unique and inclusive partnership which encompasses a robust and innovative approach to fighting extreme poverty through helping to ensure that every child everywhere has the best start in life.

As you reflect on the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, we invite member states to look more closely at the experience of Gavi's 21st century development model and think of how to build on the lessons we have learned and apply them to other development challenges.

Thank you.