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Keynote address for the 2022 UN (United Nations) High Level Political Forum.

- Excellencies, distinguished delegates,
- For the second year in a row, the world is no longer making progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been unprecedented in scope and scale, exacerbating vulnerabilities and inequities, reversing decades of progress in socio-economic development, with the most vulnerable and marginalised communities hit hardest.
- COVID-19 has underscored the importance of vaccines in preventing and managing outbreaks and pandemics. It has also highlighted the importance of equity between and within countries.
- The lessons learned from the COVID-19 response emphasises the urgent need for national governments, supported by the global community, to be ready to rapidly mobilise financing including domestic resources during crisis.
- This is necessary to reach the most vulnerable communities with proven high-impact interventions, such as vaccines.
- Not just pandemic vaccines, but also routine immunisations, which strengthen primary health care systems as a cornerstone for achieving not only pandemic preparedness but also Universal Health Coverage and promoting social and economic growth.
- Despite immense challenges to close the COVID-19 vaccine equity gap, incredible progress has been made with COVAX delivering 1.53 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 146 countries and territories, with more than 90% of these having been shipped to 87 lower-income economies.

- With vaccine supply finally exceeding demand, we must now continue our efforts to close the equity gap by focusing on providing low-income and low coverage countries with the support needed to scale up their delivery systems and increase their absorptive capacity, with a particular focus on high-risk groups.
- As the global community responds to the ongoing pandemic, we also need to ensure that essential health services are maintained and strengthened to build resilient health systems that prevent further backsliding on development gains and support economic recovery.
- This can only be done if we truly translate the SDG's ambition of *"Leaving No One Behind"* into concrete action.
- At Gavi, we are doing this through our current strategy focused on reaching zero-dose children in low- and middle-income countries, including those in humanitarian settings, with routine immunisation services.
- These children embody communities facing acute poverty, gender-related barriers, stigmatisation, and limited access to both basic health and non-health services, such as education, water and sanitation.
- Reaching these children, and their communities, with routine immunisation provides an opportunity for countries and partners to also provide other non-health services through multi-agency and multi-sector coalitions.
- We encourage all governments, partners, civil society and stakeholders to keep their focus, attention, and action on the SDGs.
- Gavi is committed to doing this and working alongside you to make this happen.

- Thank you