

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 11-551 7700 Fax: +251 11-5517844
Website: [www. au.int](http://www.au.int)

SC18518

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thirtieth Ordinary Session
22 - 27 January 2017
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

EX.CL/1002(XXX) Add.1
Original: English

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO IMMUNIZATION AS A CORNER STONE
FOR HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**
(Item Proposed by the Federal Democratic Republic Of Ethiopia)

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO IMMUNIZATION AS A CORNER STONE FOR HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

1. The January 2017 African Union Summit's theme is "Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth." Given the critical role that immunization plays in ensuring children develop into healthy young adults, this Summit is an opportune moment to present the Addis Declaration on Immunization for endorsement by African Heads of State and Government.
2. Young people are the leaders of today-and tomorrow. Investments in youth-particularly in their health early on-can ensure the development of a healthy young work force that is capable of moving into new opportunities that emerge from a demographic dividend.
3. Universal access to immunization can help ensure more children survive and grow into healthy and productive young people. Immunization prevents diseases and infections that can hold young people back from growing and developing physically, intellectually, and ultimately contributing to economies and society. Immunization is also about ensuring equity that every young person has the same opportunity to live to their full potential. It is one of the most necessary investments to harness the potential of Africa's young people for social and economic development, fostering increased prosperity for the continent.
4. Vaccines provide benefits beyond health outcomes, including averted medical costs and reduced time spent by parents and health care workers caring for sick children. Immunization is one of the smartest investments. Investments in immunization from 2011 to 2020 will yield a 16 times greater return in averted illness costs. These savings accrue to families, communities and nations as improvements in education, economic growth and poverty reduction.
5. It helps build a healthy and productive young population that is capable of harnessing the demographic dividend.

Background on the Addis Declaration on Immunization

6. Africa has made tremendous gains over the last several years in increasing access to immunization. Despite progress, one in five children in Africa still does not receive basic life-saving vaccines. The ADI outlines ten objectives to help countries increase access to immunization and ultimately achieve universal access to immunization.
7. The ADI was initially signed by Ministers and heads of country delegations in February 2016 at the Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa. To date, 45 African member states have signed the Declaration.

8. However, only with the support of government leaders can the goal of reaching every child with life-saving vaccines be realized. By endorsing the ADI at the January 2017 African Union Summit, Heads of State and Government will commit to investing in a better future for young people, and ultimately Africa.

**DECLARATION ON
“UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO IMMUNIZATION AS A CORNER STONE
FOR HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA”**

We, African Ministers of Health, Finance, Education, Social Affairs, Local Governments attending the ministerial conference on immunization in Africa, which took place from 24 to 25 February 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and convened by the World Health Organization in collaboration with the African Union Commission, are committed to continued investment in immunization programs and a healthy future for all people of the continent.

Recognizing the tremendous advances that are improving the health of Africa's citizens, including:

- A 50 % decline in child death rates, and ever-growing numbers of children attending school;
- Widespread access to vaccines that were not available to African children and adults just a decade ago;
- Higher vaccine coverage rates across the continent in each five-year period between 1999-2014;
- The remarkable achievement of the African continent for interrupting wild poliovirus transmission for more than one year; achieving near elimination of Meningococcal Meningitis A epidemics, and the significant reduction in disease burden and mortality due to measles.

Bearing in mind the recently ratified Sustainable Development Goals target on Universal Health Coverage which calls for access to immunization for all (New York, September 2015); and that health is fundamental to social and economic development;

Acknowledging that, broad-based, inclusive growth in Africa is dependent on a healthy population, and that strong immunization programs are a cornerstone of robust health system that help achieving universal health coverage, which is critical to helping national leaders achieve their economic and development goals;

Reaffirming the economic imperative and benefits of reducing vaccine-preventable diseases and consequential deaths, which will improve overall health, empower our future generation and allow every person to achieve his or her full potential;

Recalling the Heads of States and Governments declaration on polio eradication in Africa: “our historic legacy to future generations” (Johannesburg, June 2015); the world health assembly resolution (WHA68.6) ON THE Global Vaccine Action Plan (Geneva, May 2015), the commitment made by African Ministers of Health on Universal Health Coverage in Africa (Luanda, April 2014); the Immunize Africa 2020 Declaration (Abuja, May 2014) endorsed by African Heads of State; the World Health Assembly Resolution that commits all 194 Member States to apply the vision and strategies of the global

Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) (Geneva, May 2012), and the African Heads of States endorsement of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan in 2012 as the framework for African People to have access to essential, quality, safe and effective medical products and technologies.

Recognizing that despite progress, universal access to immunization by 2020, as endorsed under the GVAP, is largely off track in Africa as indicated by the 2014 GVAP report; but that with resolve we can still achieve the GVAP target of at least 90% coverage in our countries and at least 80 % coverage in every district for all nationally available vaccines;

Admitting that to sustain the progress made in vaccine introduction and coverage-and achieve the full potential to save children's and adult's lives-current national budgetary allocations to vaccination programs within the context of national health systems financing will need to be further increased;

We hereby collectively and individually commit ourselves to:

- Keeping universal access to immunization at the forefront of our efforts to reduce child mortality, morbidity and disability, and in doing so help our countries achieve their long-term health, economic and development goals;
- Increasing and sustaining our domestic investments and funding allocations, including innovative financing mechanisms, to meet the cost of traditional vaccines, fulfill our new vaccine financing requirements, and providing financial support for the operational implementation of immunization activities by EPI programs;
- Addressing the persistent barriers in our vaccine and healthcare delivery systems, especially in the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized communities, including the strengthening of data collection, reporting and use at all levels as well as building effective and efficient supply chains and integrated procurements systems;
- Increasing the effectiveness and efficiency, as well as changing the approaches as needed, of our immunization delivery systems as an integrated part of strong and sustainable primary health care systems;
- Attaining and maintaining high quality surveillance for targeted vaccine preventable disease;
- Monitoring progress towards achieving the goals of the global and regional immunization plans

- Ensuring polio legacy transition plans are in place by the end of 2016 that will allow future health programs to benefit from the knowledge and expertise the polio program has generated through the eradication initiative;
- Developing a capacitated African research sector to enhance immunization implementation and uptake;
- Building broad political will, working with communities, civil society organizations, traditional and religious leaders, health professional associations and parliamentarians, for the right of every child and every community to have universal access to life-saving vaccines, and by extension the best possible chance for a healthy future;
- Promoting and investing in regional capacity for the development and production of vaccines in line with the African Union Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan including the strengthening of national regulatory authorities.

We call upon:

- Member states and partners, including the African Development Bank and African regional economic communities, to support the implementation of this declaration, and to increase their efforts to mobilize resources and secure new investments to strengthen national immunization programmes to achieve the GVAP goals and overall health care delivery systems in the member states;
- Member states and partners, to negotiate with vaccine manufacturers to facilitate access to available vaccines at affordable prices, and in increasing price transparency as well as developing price database in line with resolution WHA68.6;
- Gavi, the vaccine alliance to consider refugees and internally displaced populations as eligible recipients of Gavi support for vaccines and operational costs;
- The World Health Organization and the African Union Commission to support member states to share experiences, strengthen capacity, and establish mechanisms for monitoring progress towards the fulfillment of these commitments.

We thank his Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and host country for this Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa, for agreeing to champion this declaration and further request him to present it to the African Heads of State and Government at the 26th Summit of the African Union, to be held in July 2016.

Done at Addis Ababa on 25 February 2016

**DRAFT DECISION ON UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO IMMUNIZATION AS A
CORNERSTONE FOR HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA
Doc. Assembly/AU/.... (XXVIII)Add.1**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on “Universal Access to Immunization as a Cornerstone for Health and Development in Africa”;
2. **RECOGNIZES** that as the continent that has the youngest population of any region globally, developing the right policies and investments in health for youth including investments in immunization, will position Africa to move into new opportunities that emerge from a demographic dividend;
3. **RECALLS** that Article 14 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child stipulates that every child shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health;
4. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that harnessing the demographic dividend through broad-based inclusive economic growth in Africa is dependent on a healthy population; and that strong immunization programmes are a cornerstone of robust health systems that help to achieve universal health coverage which is critical for Africa to achieve the economic and development goals set by Agenda 2063;
5. **RECOGNIZES** that the economic imperative and benefits of reducing vaccine-preventable diseases and consequential deaths will improve overall health, empower our future generation and allow every person to achieve his or her full potential;
6. **REAFFIRMS** commitment to implement the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan in Africa (PMPA) that will promote and invest in regional capacity for the development and production of vaccines;
7. **ENDORSES** the Ministerial Declaration on Universal Access to Immunization as a Cornerstone for Health and Development in Africa;
8. **CALLS UPON** Member States to support the implementation of the Declaration to ensure and facilitate universal access to immunization by allocating adequate domestic resources and securing new investments to strengthen national immunization programmes as well as mount strong advocacy campaigns to achieve the Global Vaccine Action Plan goals and overall health care delivery systems;

9. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Member States in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, to negotiate with vaccine manufacturers to ensure and facilitate access to vaccines at affordable prices while increasing price transparency;
10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, Member States, WHO and partners to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration and put in place a mechanism for follow up and regular reporting to the Summit to include a corresponding accountability framework.

Accès Universel à la Vaccination Comme Fondement de la Santé et du Développement en Afrique (Point proposé par la République Fédérale Démocratique d'Éthiopie)

Union Africaine

Union Africaine

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/2992>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository