

Statement by Parliamentary Vice-Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Japan
H.E. Mr. MATSUMOTO Hisashi
at Global Summit: Health & Prosperity through Immunization
(Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Replenishment for 6th strategic period)
Brussel, 25 June 2025
[3min/ 450 approx. words]

Her Excellency Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission,
His Excellency Dr. António Costa, President of the European Council,
Mr. Bill Gates, Chair of the Gates Foundation,
Mr. José Manuel Barroso, Gavi's Board Chair
Excellencies, distinguished participants,

I am MATSUMOTO Hisashi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. I am honoured to speak at “Global Summit: Health & Prosperity through Immunization” on behalf of the Government of Japan.

I would like to express my deep respect for the leadership of the EU and the Gates Foundation, and the dedicated work of Gavi's Board Chair, Mr. José Manuel Barroso, and its CEO, Dr. Sania Nishtar for organizing the Summit.

I also would like to express my respect for the efforts of all

the Ministers, representatives of international organizations, and participants who work tirelessly to protect the health and lives of children and people worldwide.

For 25 years since its establishment, Gavi has overcome numerous challenges. In particular, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Gavi made extraordinary contributions to UHC by ensuring equitable access to vaccines, together with core organizations such as WHO. The Government of Japan highly values these policies and activities of Gavi and support them as its vital partner.

Immunization saves countless lives, and leads to economic growth and health security. Gavi takes innovative initiatives to ensure equitable access to affordable and safe vaccines, such as strengthening vaccine manufacturing capacity in Africa and other regions.

We are proud to contribute to these efforts and, we also

expect that Japanese vaccines such as dengue and Mpox, high-tech solutions namely fingerprint identification for vaccination records for infants, and new vaccinations developed by Japanese companies in the future will play even greater roles in the Gavi's work.

Japan prioritizes global health as a key pillar of our foreign policy. With a view to protecting the lives and dignity of every individual, as well as realising "human security", Japan has been engaging in the achievement of the universal health coverage (UHC) for all people to have access to effective and quality health services.

The Japanese government is collaborating with WHO and the World Bank to establish "the UHC Knowledge Hub". It will be a global center for knowledge sharing and human resource development to achieve UHC in low- and middle-income countries.

Japan hereby promises to firmly and continuously support Gavi's mission "Leaving no one behind with immunization."

At the same time, faced with significant changes

surrounding this mission today, we expect its strengthened collaboration and synergy with other international organizations in this field.

Japan is committed to engaging with Gavi delivering truly impactful results in the next strategic period, Gavi 6.0.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.