

**IDSA Statement for 146th WHO Executive Board Meeting
February 2020**

Item 8: Global vaccine action plan

Global Health Council supported by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Global Health Technologies Coalition commend WHO and member states on progress made towards achieving global immunization targets. Despite these efforts, coverage of essential vaccines only increased from 84% in 2010 to 86% in 2018, leaving nearly 20 million children unvaccinated every year. Polio has not been eradicated, and the resurgence of measles threatens to undo decades-worth of progress. Any post-2020 vaccination strategy must prioritize reaching those left behind and ensuring access to essential vaccines in conflict settings, among displaced persons and during outbreaks of emerging infections like Ebola. Improved immunization programs will help counter rising rates of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and help ensure existing medicines remain effective for longer. Vaccines are an essential prevention tool, and member states must invest in research and development for new vaccine technologies coupled with increased capacity building for the uptake of innovations within national immunization programs.

While we support recommendations for a post-2020 strategy to focus on placing countries at the center of strategy development, we urge prioritizing overarching and measurable global-level targets for vaccines like MMR, DTaP, and IPV, while allowing for disease surveillance systems at country or regional levels to inform recommendations for other infections. Specific dates for achieving targets are needed to ensure countries prioritize activities and hold themselves accountable for demonstrating progress.

We urge WHO and member states to improve efforts to address vaccine hesitancy, named by WHO as a global health threat in 2019. Future vaccine action plans should prioritize research to develop better tools for providers and public health programs to effectively communicate with vaccine-hesitant families and communities.

We are encouraged to see the Director General's report noting the important role non-state actors can play in strengthening vaccine strategies. As infectious disease and global health professionals, we stand ready to work with WHO on developing new vaccine strategies, developing the vaccine R&D pipeline, and innovative solutions to ensure global uptake of these critical health interventions to mitigate global-health challenges.