Commitment to a Life Course Approach to Immunisation

On behalf of members of civil society who believe in the importance of a life course approach to immunisation, thank you and WHO for the thoughtful approach to engaging stakeholders in co-creating and co-developing the draft strategy for immunisation 2021-2030.

Without doubt, the Immunisation Strategy 2021-2030 alongside the WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing is a unifying signal for member states and cross-sectoral and cross-discipline stakeholders to join forces with and for the health of current and future populations.

In supporting this impressive draft strategy, we believe it important to convey several essential messages for consideration:

- The WHO 5-year strategic plan with the triple billion target (Ensuring 1 billion more people benefit from universal health coverage, 1 billion more are protected from health emergencies and 1 billion improve their overall health) is built upon the essential elements of a comprehensive public health portfolio which must include immunisation across the life course.
- Recognising that all people/patients should enjoy their right to health irrespective of age, gender or where they live, it is paramount to uphold the rights of generations of citizens globally to immunisation (and health) that starts with the birth of an individual and extends across the life course.
- The majority of issues singled out for attention by WHO in 2019 as major threats to global health each link directly to the value and return on investment of vaccines toward a healthier population (and universal health care and primary health care). These include air pollution and climate change, noncommunicable diseases, the spectre of a global influenza pandemic, fragile and vulnerable settings (and health systems), antimicrobial resistance and vaccine hesitancy, among others.

Immunisation For All Ages is the action and value proposition that speaks to so many of the UN Sustainable Goals and the WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing. The most obvious are: 1. No Poverty, 2. Zero Hunger, 3. Good Health and Well-Being, 4. Quality Education, 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth) with several additional cross-cutting themes including: 5. Gender Equality, 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities; and 17. Partnerships and Goals.

Collectively and as steadfast members of civil society we are committed to contributing and being engaged during the ongoing process of developing and delivering the global immunization strategy 2021-2030 while strongly believing in the need for concrete actions for which we as non-state actors can be also accountable alongside member states and the WHO.

We stand ready to support your team and WHO with this important work because it is ‘the right thing to do’ for current and future generations.

Yours sincerely,