

Vaccines for All: Health. Security. Growth.

A High-Level Talk

Stockholm, October 1st 2025

A high-level talk on vaccines for global public health, security and growth was held on October 1, 2025, in Stockholm. Moderated by Tobias Alfvén, Professor at Karolinska Institutet and Karl Wennberg, Professor at Stockholm School of Economics, the event brought together around 70 participants representing government, academia, civil society, research and business.

Science as an antidote to misinformation

The audience was welcomed by Annika Östman Wernerson, President of Karolinska Institutet and Lars Strannegård, President of Stockholm School of Economics. Annika Östman Wernerson reflected on recent Nobel-prize winning breakthroughs in vaccine development and emphasised the importance of equitable access to innovation. Lars Strannegård acknowledged the shifting public sentiment towards vaccines, underscoring that science is vital for combatting misinformation.

Gavi's impact and value of vaccination

The Swedish Minister of International Trade and Developmental Cooperation, Benjamin Dousa, began the dialogue by describing vaccines as one of the most cost-effective global health investments, with a return of \$54 for every \$1 invested. Sweden has played a significant role in global health and development, and remains a strong supporter of GAVI, UNICEF, WHO and The Global Fund. The Swedish government is committed to leveraging the country's unique ecosystem of research, entrepreneurship and innovation to address global challenges.

In her keynote speech, Sania Nishtar, CEO of Gavi, highlighted that Sweden's long-standing commitment greatly contributes to Gavi's mission. In the past 25 years, Gavi has vaccinated more than 1.2 billion children, saving over 20 million lives. Having recognised the shifts in global health architecture, the organisation is advancing internal reforms under the LEAP programme to maximise its efficiency and impact. LEAP is underpinned by core principles including country centricity, country sovereignty, limited mandates and finite lifespans of international institutions. Sania Nishtar called for sustaining yet redesigning foreign aid, offering Gavi's approach as a potential blueprint for other stakeholders in the global health system.

Snapshots from evidence and research

The speeches were followed by presentations of current research on vaccination. Birgitta Henriques Normark and Anna Norrby Teglund, professors at Karolinska Institutet, shared snapshots of their work on vaccines against pneumococcal and

streptococcus A infections, respectively. Professor from Stockholm School of Economics, Martina Björkman Nyqvist, stressed that evidence-based, innovative strategies will be essential for ensuring that vaccines reach the most vulnerable populations who are currently unprotected.

Forward-looking partnerships in global health

The event concluded with a panel featuring Gavi CEO Sania Nishtar, Pfizer CEO Malin Parkler, Rwanda's Ambassador to the Nordics Diane Gashumba, Sweden's Ambassador for Global Health Karin Tegmark Wisell, and Sida's chairperson Gunilla Carlsson, who discussed the future of collaboration in global health.

The Swedish government views vaccines not only as health interventions but also as drivers of societal growth and health security in a globalised world, and is committed to building partnerships on equitable grounds, as described by Karin Tegmark Wisell. Sania Nishtar encouraged strengthening of existing partnerships, reminding the audience that it is critical not to divest from international development in current times. Malin Parkler urged for moving away from donor-driven solutions, empowering local innovators and establishing new models of public-private partnerships. Diane Gashumba shared Rwanda's successes in increasing vaccination coverage to more than 90% with Gavi's support and emphasised the role of partnerships both within and between countries. Gunilla Carlsson argued that health provides a strong entry point for diplomacy, helping countries identify common interests at a time when multilateral cooperation is under strain.

During the Q&A segment of the panel, speakers noted the promising developments in vaccine manufacturing capacity in Africa, including mechanisms such as the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator, and reflected on the role of industry in ensuring equitable distribution of vaccines.

The event concluded with a recognition that the global health architecture is evolving, with an emphasis on sovereignty, equity and accountability. Amidst diverse perspectives and agendas, a common understanding emerged: progress depends on togetherness.