Implementing the global road map on defeating meningitis by 2030

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In November 2020, the Seventy-third World Health Assembly adopted the first resolution on meningitis prevention and control, and approved the global road map to defeat meningitis by 2030. Building on the successes of the past decades in the fight against meningitis, now is the time to implement this ambitious and inclusive road map to defeat meningitis as a public health threat. This collective resolution of 194 countries offers considerable hope and paves the way for success.

The final release and official launch of the global road map took place at the end of September 2021. While the road map is an operational document and a concrete plan, with clear priorities, activities and milestones in several areas, its implementation requires immediate, rigorous and concerted action at all levels. These include strengthening strategic leadership and coordination with partners, developing regional and national implementation frameworks, finalizing a monitoring and evaluation plan, developing and widely disseminating a business case.

The strong momentum and energy generated to develop and rally around the global road map will now have to turn into power for its implementation, which will have benefits beyond meningitis control, by strengthening programs immunization, global health security, access to support for people with disabilities and primary health care. Innovation is essential to complete the arsenal of tools we already have and to make them available, accessible and affordable.