

GLOBAL INVESTOR STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF AN EFFECTIVE, FAIR AND EQUITABLE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

As of 23 February 2021, this statement has already been signed by 148 institutional investors and their representatives with over USD\$ 14 trillion in assets under management or advice. The statement is still open for signature.

As institutional investors with millions of beneficiaries around the world, we recognise and attach considerable importance to the need for an effective, fair and equitable global response to COVID-19. For this reason, we are concerned about the negative impact that limited funding for the [Access to COVID-19 Tools \(ACT\) Accelerator](#) and uneven global access to health technologies (from vaccines and monoclonal antibodies to diagnostics and medical oxygen) will have on the trajectory of the pandemic and global economic activity in the coming years.

A [study](#) commissioned by the International Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation has found that advanced economies that can vaccinate all of their citizens remain at risk of a sluggish recovery with a drag on GDP if infection continues to spread unabated in emerging markets. In fact, the global economy stands to lose as much as US\$ 9.2 trillion if governments fail to ensure that developing economies gain access to COVID-19 vaccines. These losses dwarf the funding needed to enable vaccines to be procured for everyone, everywhere – making a clear “investment case” for full capitalization of the ACT-Accelerator and a coordinated global approach to distribution.

A different [study](#) commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has reached a similar conclusion: leaving lower-income countries without access to vaccines amid the COVID-19 pandemic will cause significant economic damage that puts decades of economic progress at risk – for both emerging markets and advanced economies alike. The report has estimated that the economic benefits of a global equitable vaccine solution alone for the 10 countries included in the analysis would be at least US\$ 153 billion in 2020-21, rising to US\$ 466 billion by 2025. This is more than 12 times the US\$ 38 billion estimated total cost of the ACT-Accelerator.

Given the pervasive health and social costs of the pandemic, we recognise a strong moral argument to leave no one behind. The two reports above highlight that empowering an effective, fair and equitable global response to COVID-19 via the ACT-Accelerator in 2021 is not only the right thing to do – it also makes full economic sense. We therefore:

- a) Encourage world leaders in the G7, G20 and ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council to finance the ACT-Accelerator in full and deploy adequate funding to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 tools globally;
- b) Commit to work with the [Access to Medicine Foundation](#) on this issue and engage (bilaterally and/or via existing collaborative initiatives) with our investee healthcare companies to promote industry actions supporting the mission and operations of the ACT-Accelerator (e.g., cross-industry partnerships to accelerate R&D and expand production, equitable pricing strategies, voluntary licensing agreements); and
- c) Recommend that governments and international organisations explore the feasibility of innovative finance mechanisms for national and global COVID-19 responses, similar to [vaccine bonds](#) issued by the International Finance Facility for Immunisation or [social bonds for COVID-19 programmes](#) issued by individual or multiple governments. These mechanisms could build on the strong response by capital markets to ESG-labelled debt issued in 2020.

The International Monetary Fund [has urged](#) the international community to act quickly to make sure that COVID-19 health technologies are available globally to mitigate the risks of virus mutations and address what is currently a deeply inequitable distribution of COVID-19 tools across the world.

We support this call for action. The time to act is now.

SIGNATORY INVESTORS

Listed in alphabetical order by organisation name. Total assets under management in excess of USD\$ 14 trillion.

a.s.r. asset management	Dana Investment Advisors	Mutualitat dels Enginyers MPS
Achmea	Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise	NEI Investments
ACTIAM	DNB Asset Management	Newground Social Investment
Adrian Dominican Sisters, Portfolio Advisory Board	Domini Impact Investments LLC	NN Investment Partners
Aegon Asset Management	EFG Asset Management	Nomura Asset Management
Aegon Netherlands	Egamo	Nordea Asset Management
Aequo	EOS at Federated Hermes	Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
AkademikerPension	Ethical Partners Funds Management	OFI Asset Management
Alecta pensionsförsäkring, ömsesidigt	Etica Funds	Öhman
Align Impact	Everence and the Praxis Mutual Funds	Parnassus Investments
AllianceBernstein	Fidelity International	Providence Capital NV
Alquity Investment Management Limited	The Folksam Group	RAM Active Investments SA
American Century Investments	Fondo de Pensiones de los Empleados de Banco Sabadell GM	Rathbone Greenbank Investments
AMP Capital	Fondo de Pensiones de los Empleados de Banco Sabadell MF2000	Reynders, McVeigh Capital Management, LLC
AP7 (Sjunde AP-fonden)	Forum Equity Partners	Robeco
ASN Beleggingsfondsen	Future Super	San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS)
Asset Management One	GAM Investments	Schroders
Australian Ethical Investment	Genesis Investment Management	SEB Investment Management AB
Avaron Asset Management	GMO	Shareholders for Change
Aviva Investors	De Goudse Verzekeringen	The Sisters of St Francis of Philadelphia
Aware Super	Groupama Asset Management	The Socially Responsible Investing Group of 1919 Investment Counsel
AXA Investment Managers	HESTA	Statewide Super
Baloise Asset Management	Hexavest	Stewart Investors
BanSabadell Pensiones E.G.F.P., S.A.	ICCR	Stichting Algemeen Pensioenfonds Stap
BANSABADELL PENTAPENSION EMPRESA FP	Impact Investors	Stichting Pensioenfonds Huisartsen
BBVA Asset Management	Impax Asset Management Pax World Funds	Stichting Pensioenfonds Medisch Specialisten
Joh. Berenberg, Gossler & Co. KG (Berenberg)	Indecap Fonder AB	Storebrand
BlueBay Asset Management	Insight Investment	Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Asset Management
BMO Global Asset Management	ISGAM	Sycomore Asset Management
Bon Secours Mercy Health	Jlens Investor Network	The Maryknoll Sisters
Boston Common Asset Management	Jupiter Asset Management	Trillium Asset Management
Boston Trust Walden	KBI Global Investors	Trinity Health
CANDRIAM	Kempfen Capital Management	Triodos Investment Management
Castlefield Investment Partners	KLP Kapitalforvaltning AS	Trusteam Finance
Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church	Länsförsäkringar Liv AB	Tundra Fonder
Church of Sweden	La Banque Postale Asset Management	Unipol Group
The Church Pension Fund (Finland)	La Financière de l'Echiquier	United Church Funds
ClearBridge Investments	Liontrust Asset Management PLC	The United Church of Canada
Coho Partners	Local Government Super	USS Investment Management
Columbia Threadneedle	London LGPS CIV Ltd	Vancity Investment Management
Comgest	M&G Investments	Verve Super
CommonSpirit Health	Man Group plc	VvAA Groep
Compañía de servicios de bebidas refrescantes pensiones, F.P	MediRisk	Wespath Benefits and Investments
Congregation of St. Joseph	Mercy Investment Services, Inc.	WHEB Asset Management
Coöperatie VGZ U.A.	Midat Cyclops FP	Zevin Asset Management
The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited	Miller/Howard Investments	
	Mirova	
	Montanaro Asset Management	