

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.

- EMBARGOED UNTIL 14:00 CET, TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021 -

NOTE: The following investor signatories are listed in alphabetical order by organisation name.

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