

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

As of 25 February 2021, this statement has already been signed by 152 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	Coöperatie VGZ U.A.	Kempen Capital Management
Achmea	The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited	KLP Kapitalforvaltning AS
ACTIAM	Dana Investment Advisors	Länsförsäkringar Liv AB
Adrian Dominican Sisters, Portfolio Advisory Board	Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise	La Banque Postale Asset Management
Aegon Asset Management	DNB Asset Management	La Financière de l'Echiquier
Aegon Netherlands	Domini Impact Investments LLC	Liontrust Asset Management PLC
Aequo	East Capital	Local Government Super
AkademikerPension	Ecofi (member of Shareholders for Change)	London LGPS CIV Ltd
Alecta pensionsförsäkring, ömsesidigt	EFG Asset Management	M&G Investments
Align Impact	Egamo	Man Group plc
AllianceBernstein	EOS at Federated Hermes	MediRisk
Alquity Investment Management Limited	Ethical Partners Funds Management	Meeschaert Asset Management (member of Shareholders for Change)
Alternative Bank Schweiz (member of Shareholders for Change)	Ethos (member of Shareholders for Change)	Mercy Investment Services, Inc.
American Century Investments	Etica Funds (member of Shareholders for Change)	Midat Cyclops, FP
AMP Capital	Everence and the Praxis Mutual Funds	Miller/Howard Investments
AP7 (Sjunde AP-fonden)	Fair-finance Vorsorgekasse (member of Shareholders for Change)	Mirova
ASN Beleggingsfondsen	Fidelity International	Montanaro Asset Management
Asset Management One	The Folksam Group	Mutualitat dels Enginyers MPS
Australian Ethical Investment	Fondazione Finanza Etica (member of Shareholders for Change)	NEI Investments
Avaron Asset Management	Fondo de Pensiones de los Empleados de Banco Sabadell GM	Newground Social Investment
Aviva Investors	Fondo de Pensiones de los Empleados de Banco Sabadell MF2000	NN Investment Partners
Aware Super	Forma Futura (member of Shareholders for Change)	Nomura Asset Management
AXA Investment Managers	Forum Equity Partners	Nordea Asset Management
Baloise Asset Management	Friends Provident Foundation (member of Shareholders for Change)	Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Bank für Kirche und Caritas eG (member of Shareholders for Change)	Fundación Finanzas Eticas (member of Shareholders for Change)	OFI Asset Management
BanSabadell Pensiones E.G.F.P., S.A.	Future Super	Öhman
BANSABADELL PENTAPENSION EMPRESA FP	GAM Investments	Pædagogernes Pension (PBU)
BBVA Asset Management	Genesis Investment Management	Parnassus Investments
Joh. Berenberg, Gossler & Co. KG (Berenberg)	GMO	Providence Capital NV
BlueBay Asset Management	De Goudse Verzekeringen	RAM Active Investments SA
BMO Global Asset Management	Groupama Asset Management	Rathbone Greenbank Investments
Bon Secours Mercy Health	HESTA	Reynders, McVeigh Capital Management, LLC
Boston Common Asset Management	Hexavest	Robeco
Boston Trust Walden	ICCR	San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS)
CANDRIAM	Impact Investors	SANSO Investment Solutions (member of Shareholders for Change)
Castlefield Investment Partners	Impax Asset Management   Pax World Funds	Schroders
Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church	Indecap Fonder AB	SEB Investment Management AB
Church of Sweden	Insight Investment	Shareholders for Change
The Church Pension Fund (Finland)	ISGAM AG	The Sisters of St Francis of Philadelphia
ClearBridge Investments	Jlens Investor Network	The Socially Responsible Investing Group of 1919 Investment Counsel
Coho Partners	Jupiter Asset Management	Statewide Super
Columbia Threadneedle	KBI Global Investors	Stewart Investors
Comgest		Stichting Algemeen Pensioenfonds Stap
CommonSpirit Health		Stichting Pensioenfonds Huisartsen
Compañía de servicios de bebidas refrescantes pensiones, F.P		Stichting Pensioenfonds Medisch Specialisten
Congregation of St. Joseph		Storebrand

Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Asset  
Management  
Sycomore Asset Management  
The Maryknoll Sisters  
Trillium Asset Management  
Trinetra  
Trinity Health  
Triodos Investment Management  
Trusteam Finance  
Tundra Fonder  
Unipol Group  
United Church Funds  
The United Church of Canada  
USS Investment Management  
Vancity Investment Management  
Verve Super  
VvAA Groep  
Wespath Benefits and Investments  
WHEB Asset Management  
Zevin Asset Management