

Geneva, 18 April 2020

Distinguished leaders of the G20,

In light of the unprecedented global health emergency the world is facing due to the outbreak of COVID-19, our three organizations—Gavi, the Global Fund and Unitaid—are fully committed to the pandemic response, following the call of G20 leaders and working under the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO). Building on a long history of successful partnership, delivering results and saving lives side by side, we believe that working together around the COVID-19 crisis is not only the right thing to do—it is the smart thing to do.

COVID-19 threatens to reverse hard-won gains in global health, whether it is in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the world three deadliest infectious diseases, or in terms of immunization, putting millions of lives at risk. Therefore, the global response to COVID-19 needs to be aligned with the commitment to maintain and strengthen investments in other essential health interventions around the world, being mindful of the rapid transformations in the social and economic milieu. We must also continue to execute our mandates and retain the rigor, accountability, and inclusiveness of our interventions.

As the largest multilateral funder of health systems in more than 100 countries, the Global Fund has started supporting country-level responses to COVID-19 to safeguard investments in HIV, tuberculosis and malaria and preserve the integrity of health systems and groups affected by the three diseases. Through exceptional measures, up to USD 1 billion have been made available. The Global Fund stands ready to purchase and deliver diagnostics, protective personal equipment and therapeutic solutions in close coordination with the WHO-led consortium.

Unitaid, supporting innovation for global health, is focusing on the immediate expansion and reprogramming of key investments to promote the use of diagnostics and treatment in Africa. In addition to this, Unitaid is working on expanding the access to high-quality COVID-19 testing and triage tools. Uniquely, Unitaid is joining forces with WHO and the Medicine Patent Pool to explore voluntary license mechanisms to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatment and devices, aiming at achieving equitable access to these innovative tools.

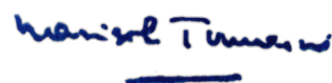
The G20 called for immediate resources to be provided to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Gavi's innovative financing mechanisms will accelerate vaccines against COVID-19 and the organization will shape markets for these products so that they get to those who need them most. Gavi has provided a first tranche of up to USD 200 million to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and protect immunization systems. Based upon the experience of 496 vaccine introductions, Gavi will help prepare countries to introduce COVID-19 vaccines as soon as they are available.

COVID-19 is a global pandemic that threatens us all and demands a truly global response. We call upon G20 leaders to unite to win this global fight and assure them of our cooperation in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
Chair, Gavi Board



Donald Kaberuka
Chair, Global Fund Board

Marisol Touraine
Chair, Unitaid Board