

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Gould, and Minister Freeland,

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated cracks in health systems around the world, leaving the most marginalized and impoverished communities at even greater risk. More than 1.2-million people have already been killed by COVID-19 and many more lives are at risk due to the secondary impacts of the pandemic. Weakened supply chains and service interruptions have impeded access to lifesaving medicines for HIV, TB, and cancer. Economic impacts of the pandemic are forcing millions around the world into poverty and food insecurity. Routine immunizations are being lost, setting back child health across the globe. We must act today to help strengthen health systems globally, putting a quicker stop to COVID-19 while building capacity for countries to better respond to epidemics of the future.

To meet the unprecedented challenge posed by the pandemic, we are joining with Canadians across the country to call for Canada to commit at least 1% of our COVID-19 funding, an estimated \$2.3-billion, to support the global pandemic response.

We applaud your government for the significant commitments you have already made to the global response, with \$413-million committed to the ACT Accelerator and \$725-million committed to the humanitarian response. In the face of this global emergency and the danger it poses around the world, we must mobilize to do even more. Currently we have only invested 0.49% of our total COVID-19 spending on the global pandemic response, well below the 1% goal.

We believe that pragmatic global solidarity is the only way to put an end to the pandemic and to build back better. As your government has stated, no one will be safe from this pandemic until everyone is safe. This means investing more in a globally coordinated emergency response that can meet the immediate medical and humanitarian need through testing, treatment, and vaccines, while also serving as a springboard to stronger health systems investments.

We are urging you to take the following action:

- ***Commit to investing at least 1% of Canada's COVID-19 response budget to new and additional aid towards an emergency global response to end the pandemic everywhere.***
- A portion of these funds should go to global health agencies delivering on the ACT-Accelerator to put an end to the current pandemic, and a portion should be dedicated to supporting long-term health systems strengthening to help countries build back better in the wake of the pandemic.

Canada's acclaimed Feminist International Assistance Policy has made the country a global leader in promoting and supporting equity-based approaches to humanitarian aid, emergencies, and international development. We believe that our country can and should play a key global leadership role to end this pandemic and move the world towards a future where the human right to health care is achieved for all.

Sincerely,

<All Signer Names>