

Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Vice President European Commission

Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200

1049 Brussels, Belgium

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO)

Avenue Appia 20

1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

Brussels, 29 November 2021

Dear Mr Borrell,

Dear Dr Tedros,

**Re: International Scientists and Leaders ask a Global Response of Collaboration with Africa on COVID-19 following Omicron Outbreak**

We, over a hundred academics and leaders from Europe, Africa, US and elsewhere, are concerned with the lack of action for vaccination in Africa and solidarity with Africa.

The COVID-19 Variant of Concern, Omicron, reported by the South African government on 24th of November, must be a reset of the global response to curb the pandemic.

*The science is absolutely clear: until everyone is vaccinated no one is safe.*

With 63% of people in high-income countries fully vaccinated, just 1.4% of people in low-income countries are fully vaccinated (Amnesty International, quoting Our World in Data, 21.10.2021).

The vaccine inequality is shocking. Rich countries have been buying most of the world's supplies without any strategy to fulfil the needs of low-income countries. The emergence of

Omicron points to the need for global solidarity – as a moral imperative as well as out of sheer self-interest.

A global strategy to fight the pandemic must include a plan to protect Africa.

New Variants of Concern will continue to emerge, and are likely to become increasingly dangerous in the absence of such a strategy.

There is no way that isolation of Africa could be the solution to this problem. We ask that the response is based on science.

Leadership is required to act now, and this should include:

1. Financial and technical support to the establishment of vaccine production sites in Africa;
2. An immediate plan to transfer vaccines to Africa to start widespread vaccination programmes;
3. Assistance in wide-spread vaccination campaigns and building trust in the effectiveness on vaccinations.

We ask that the EU and the world to stand together in solidarity and for all responses to be based on science.

Sincerely,

Hon Fortune Z Charumbira, Acting President, Pan African Parliament

Lilianne Ploumen, Former Minister of Development Cooperation and International Trade, Leader of the Labour Party, Member of the House of Representatives, The Netherlands

Prof Ronald de Jong, Professor of Practice, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

Paul Polman, Former CEO Unilever, The Netherlands

Prof Dr Francis B. Nyamnjoh, Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Prof Dr Mouhamad Mpezamihigo, Vice Chancellor Kampala International University, Chair Virus Outbreak Data Network (VODAN)-Africa, Uganda

Dr Lieve Fransen, Senior policy advisor EPC and Director health support at the Wits University South Africa

Myles Axton, Editor in Chief, Advanced Genetics

Prof Dr Munyaradzi Mawere, Chief Scientist, Great Zimbabwe University, Co-Chair FAIR Implementation Network Africa, Zimbabwe

Cllr Hon Tolbert Nyenswah, Former Deputy Minister of Health Liberia. Senior Research Associate Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA

Wim Leereveld, Founder Access to Medicine Foundation, The Netherlands

Habtom H. Habte, PhD, Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceuticals, Spring House, Pennsylvania, USA

Koos Richelle, former DG international cooperation

Hon Bernice Dahn, Former Minister of Health Liberia, Dean of Faculty of Medical School Liberia

Prof Dr Mahaman TIDJANI ALOU, Prof of Political science, University Abdou Moumouni, and permanent researcher of IASDEL, Niamey, Niger

Prof Dr Mark Musen, Biomedical Informatics, Stanford University, USA

Bram van Ojik, Former Leader of the Green Left Party, The Netherlands

Dr Bassirou Tidjani, Professor of Business, University of Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal

Foad Aodi, Unione medica euro Mediterranea (UMEM), Associazione medici di origine straniera in Italia (AMSI), Italy

Mariam Basajja, Leiden Institute for Advanced Computer Science, Leiden University

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Julia Duncan-Cassell, Former Minister of Gender and Social Protection, Liberia

Prof Dr Mirjam van Reisen, International Relations, Innovation and Care, Tilburg University and Professor FAIR Data Science, Leiden University Medical Centre, The Netherlands

Prof Dr Francisca Onaolapo Oladipo, Federal University of Lokoja, Nigeria

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Dr Jamal Mohamed Warsame, East Africa University, Somalia

Dr Jerusalem Tesfai, Preventive Health Researcher and community Activists, Oakland, CA, USA.

Kibrom Fikadu Berhe, Mekelle University, Ethiopia

Dr Ibrahim ABDULLAHI, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai. Nigeria

Prof Dr Nancy Bocken, Sustainable Business, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Dr Sakinat Oluwabukonla Folorunsa, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria

Prof Dr ir Hein Fleuren, Director Zero Hunger Lab, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

Susan Aloyo, Kampala International University, Uganda

Dr Bawaga Ibrahim, Hoima International Research and Referral Hospital, Uganda

Prof Dr Tegawendé F. Bissyandé, University of Luxembourg and Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Luxembourg and Burkina Faso

Prof Dr Kinfe Abrha Gebreegziabher, Mekelle University, Ethiopia

Fredrick Obwanda, Accounting and finance advisor, Kenya

Paddy Maguinness, Advisor International Cooperation, Ireland

Dr Demoz Abraha Weldemichael, General Surgeon, Kampala International Research and Referral Hospital, Uganda

Selam Kidane, Release Eritrea, UK

Muluberhan Temelso Mengesha, Human Rights for Eritrea, The Netherlands, Eritrea

Prof Dr Barend Mons, Leiden University Medical Centre, The Netherlands

Dr Meriem Ghardallou, University de Sousse, Tunisia

Dr Tomas Solomon, Research and Development manager, Northrop Grumman

Erick Yuma, Kampala International University, Uganda

Allen Mukandayisenga, Kampala International University, Uganda

Cornelia Toelgyes, Africa Express, Italy

Piermario Puliti, Ministry of Higher Education, Italy

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Ashaba Tinah, student, Kenya

Charity Natukunda, Entrepreneur, Uganda

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Deqa Ibrahim, Student, Somalia

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Shamim Basajja, Uganda

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Julia Kuria, Legal officer, Kenya

Courtney C. Tidjani, Pharmacist, USA

Dr Bertha Vallejo, Associate Researcher, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

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