



**UN Special Envoy
for Global Education**

**the
Education
Commission**

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Viruses know no borders, nor should the battle to vanquish them. The world knows only too well the devastating power of pandemics and why we need coordinated global responses to global crises. As the world races to find a vaccine for COVID-19, we must not forget that all too many lives – 1.5 million – are lost every year due to vaccine-preventable diseases.

Gavi's plan to immunize another 300 million children over the next five years is bold, inspirational, and transformative: it will help us save an additional 7-8 million lives. Ensuring Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is fully funded is not just one of the most compassionate but also one of the smartest investments global leaders can make to save these precious lives and protect our common future.

Now is not the time to be complacent. As Gavi's much respected Board Chair Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has told us, this is a pivotal moment for global health and a test of our resolve as a global community. We must use it to build upon the hard-fought gains that Gavi's work over the past 20 years has achieved. I thank the donor countries that have stepped up to this urgent call and look to others to renew their commitment to help all of us prevent disease, protect our communities, and prosper together.

Gordon Brown

Rt Hon Gordon Brown
United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education
Chair, International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity