

An Open Letter from Irish business leaders

Dear fellow business leaders,

We stand at a pivotal moment for the world economy.

Ireland's successful vaccination programme has allowed the phased reopening of our economy. And while we are proud of Ireland's over 90% vaccination rate, many of the world's poorest countries have vaccination rates of less than 5%. This is not right – from both a moral and economic point of view. Low global vaccination rates are a huge barrier to the reopening of the world economy.

Ireland's economy is one of the most open in the world, and it depends hugely on free and open trade across borders. Ensuring fair and equitable vaccine distribution and localised access to all countries, regardless of their economic stature, is the key to ending the pandemic and rebuilding the global economy. Just as no one is safe until everyone is safe – no economy can hope to prosper until the global pandemic ends.

Corporate Ireland can help change the trajectory of the pandemic by accelerating the global rollout of COVID-19 vaccines.

UNICEF is currently leading the global procurement and delivery of vaccines under the COVAX Facility and aims to deliver 2 billion COVID-19 vaccines within twelve months. Over seven decades UNICEF has developed the world's largest vaccine procurement and delivery infrastructure and currently delivers over 2 billion vaccines for children each year. This places UNICEF in a unique position to deliver on this historic initiative at the scale required.

But no organisation can do this alone and UNICEF needs partners. That is why we are making this call today to the Irish business community.

With this open letter, we voice our steadfast support for UNICEF's ground-breaking effort. We are united under the UNICEF Corporate Vaccine Alliance to make an impact at a truly global scale. Now, we call on our fellow business leaders in Ireland to play their part in the opening of the world economy.

History is not made by one - it is made by the collective.

Please join us and UNICEF in this historic effort at [unicef.ie/alliance](https://www.unicef.ie/alliance)

Co-signed by:

Lead Members of the UNICEF Corporate Vaccine Alliance

John Power, CEO of Aerogen

Dómhnaíl Slattery, CEO of Avolon

Paddy Hayes, Chief Executive of ESB

Brendan Brennan, CFO of ICON plc

Seamus Hand, Managing Partner of KPMG Ireland

Declan Black, Managing Partner of Mason Hayes & Curran LLP

Anthony Brennan, CEO of Zurich Ireland