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Dai-ichi Life to Sign the Access to Medicine Foundation's Investor Statement for Improving Access to Medicine

The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited (the "Company," President and Representative Director: Seiji Inagaki) has decided to publicly endorse and sign the investor statement of the Access to Medicine Foundation (the "Foundation"), which seeks to improve access to medicine¹ in low- and middle-income countries. The Company will be the first Japanese life insurance company to sign this investor statement.

The Foundation is an independent non-profit organization based in the Netherlands. To improve access to medicine in low- and middle-income countries, the Foundation comprehensively evaluates 20 of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies and publishes its findings in the form of the Access to Medicine Index². In the investor statement, the signatory investors agree to reflect the Access to Medicine Index in their investment decisions, in order to encourage pharmaceutical companies to take action to improve access to medicine.

The Company has been proactively engaged in responsible investment (ESG investment and stewardship activities) with a view to fulfilling its social responsibilities as an institutional investor, along with enhancing its medium- and long-term investment returns. By signing the investor statement, the Company will use the Access to Medicine Index to evaluate the medium- and long-term growth potential of pharmaceutical companies and to engage those companies in dialogue, in an effort to refine the investment process further and help to improve access to medicine. By doing so, the Company will contribute to the formation of a sustainable society as an institutional investor.

< Outline of the Investor Statement³ >

1. We welcome the Foundation's efforts to improve access to medicine.
2. We consider that pharmaceutical companies have an important role to play in addressing the access to medicine issue.
3. We will review and take into account the analysis generated from the Access to Medicine Index as appropriate in the ESG analysis we conduct on the companies we invest in.
4. We hope that the Access to Medicine Index will contribute towards creating greater awareness within the pharmaceutical industry of the access to medicine issue.
5. We will provide investor input into the evolution of the Access to Medicine Index.

¹ The access to medicine issue refers to the problem of essential pharmaceuticals and healthcare services not reaching the people who need them due to circumstances such as poverty and underdeveloped healthcare systems in developing countries. It is believed that two billion people around the world do not have access to medicine.

² <https://accesstomedicineindex.org/overall-ranking/>

³ <https://accesstomedicinefoundation.org/investors/>

The Foundation's Director of Strategy, Damiano de Felice, commented:



“We are pleased to see that access to medicine is gaining increasing attention from the Japanese investor community. We have been tracking how pharmaceutical companies perform on access issues in more than 100 countries for ten years now. Dai-ichi Life's decision to sign the Access to Medicine Foundation's investor statement shows its genuine commitment to sustainable investing. The insurance industry has an important role to play in sustainable investing and engaging with investee companies on material ESG issues. We look forward to supporting insurers like Dai-ichi Life to engage with pharmaceutical companies on access to medicine, which is one of the most important ESG issues for the industry.”



Photo credit (from left to right): Ivy Lahon/Save the Children, Nguyen Tran Hung for Novartis AG, Project Hope

[About the Access to Medicine Foundation]

The Access to Medicine Foundation, which publishes the Access to Medicine Index, is an independent non-profit organization based in the Netherlands. It aims to advance access to medicine in low- and middle-income countries by stimulating and guiding the pharmaceutical industry to play a greater role in improving access to medicine. For 10 years, the Foundation has been building consensus on the role of the pharmaceutical industry in improving access to medicine and vaccines. It publishes the Access to Medicine Index every two years, with the next Index due in late 2018. In January, the Foundation published the first Antimicrobial Resistance Benchmark.