



International Actuarial Association  
Association Actuarielle Internationale

## NEWS RELEASE

March 25, 2020

### **COVID-19: IAA Statement to Stakeholders**

The current COVID-19 pandemic and its accompanying impact on social and economic activities around the globe is unprecedented. Its impacts will likely take months to fully emerge. This pandemic is providing ample illustration of the deep levels of connectivity in global human activity. Thankfully, many national and supranational organizations have recognized the urgent need for collective decision-making and have acted already.

In this context, the IAA stands ready to be of assistance to our stakeholders in these troubling times. For example, the IAA has already communicated with the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) recognizing that supervisors may need support in making changes to their 'standard' methods and procedures for the protection of policyholders and perhaps even the very survival of their insurance industry. The IAA has offered its support in order for the IAIS to benefit from active collaborations with the IAA, working together in the public interest.

With the depth and severity of the consequences of this pandemic to societies, national economies, international cooperation, households, businesses including businesses where actuaries are involved, and governments now becoming apparent, it is important for key stakeholders in the financial services sector to share information and insights on the lessons learned thus far by supervisors/firms/actuaries etc. and what next steps need be taken.

The IAA has already put in place steps to enable it to serve as a coordinating point for information interchange amongst its 101 member associations.

Internationally, some organizations have already started to seek specific information from their stakeholders with the objective of supporting them in these difficult circumstances. Efforts are underway to design and roll out measures designed to support the industry and the economy, and to maintain public confidence, with an initial focus on the banking sector. The IAA can be of assistance to supranational organizations in their examination of the lessons learned from the pandemic thus far as well as consideration of forward scenarios to be tested.

There is a need for agile responses to the design of pandemic related response measures themselves and the systems to monitor them, and several iterations may prove necessary as time goes on, and as recovery commences. Actuaries are well-equipped to advise on the likely effectiveness of any such measures as far as they affect the financial services sector and are already engaged in activities of that nature in many jurisdictions. Actuaries can add value to multidisciplinary teams engaged through professional analyses of the available data and selecting and assessing reasonable future scenarios in the design and implementation of emergency measures, and in their development, as the crisis advances and then ultimately recedes. Such emergency measures should ideally aim to offer operational relief, and support business continuity in a sustainable manner to help society as a whole to survive through this COVID-19 crisis. However, longer horizon measures will also need to be designed to incorporate the lessons learnt from this particular crisis – as mankind has learnt from each major crisis in the past. All segments of society including professions like the actuarial profession should be nimble and work for preventive measures to tame the crude reality in the first place but adapt to the unchangeable reality.

The IAA stands ready to meet with our stakeholders to discuss strategies and solutions to the urgent, and still rapidly evolving, matters arising from this pandemic.

To learn more about the work of the IAA, please contact the [Secretariat](#).

*Ce communiqué de nouvelles sera aussi disponible en français.*

The IAA is the worldwide association of professional actuarial associations, representing approximately 70,000 actuaries in more than 115 countries, with seven special interest Sections for individual actuaries. The IAA was founded in 1895 and exists to encourage the development of a global actuarial profession, acknowledged as technically competent and professionally reliable, which will ensure that the public interest is served. The IAA has 73 Full Member Associations and 28 Associate Member Associations.

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