Mr Brown explained that the most urgent and immediate priority in tackling Covid and the patent waiver.

He said: "People are dying now – right now – because we can't get enough vaccines and getting more vaccines to people especially in developing countries was money.

Mr Brown said it was "short-sighted to take such a narrow view of national self-interest" global financial crash, and requested the authorities to share the burden of funding.

He urged the Government to initiate "extraordinary measures", as it did for the 2008 funding hole. Brown spoke of only "weeks" left to resolve this.

He warned that the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) – the WHO's initiative could cost them $5 trillion in loss of trade, economic activities, companies going bust and for rich countries to vaccinate only their own citizens in prolonging a mutating crisis that for some countries is already too late.

Mr Brown called the rich countries approach of tackling COVID-19 so far as being an "inequality and 'complacency' – 'We are not safe, as long as the disease can spread and mutate'."

He continued: "We may feel safe, but we are not safe, as long as the disease can spread and mutate".

He expressed worry over the worsening vaccine inequality and said: "People have become complacent about Covid.

"Our global (health) funds are fast running out of money. Vaccine inequity is getting worse and worse. If we don't act now it will get infinitely worse."

Mr Brown, 70, said that "we must alert the conscience of the world" to act given his role on Oxfam's EQUALS forum of democratic former Presidents and Prime Ministers. Speaking on Oxfam's EQUALS (WHO) Ambassador for Global Health Financing and is a member of the Club de Madrid.