ACTaccelerator
ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS

ACT-Accelerator 6th Facilitation Council, 12 May 2021

Opening remarks, Mr Dag-Inge Ulstein, Minister of International Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

- Thank you Minister Mkhize,
- At our last meeting – we felt optimistic as vaccination had begun in low income as well as high income countries.
- But, unfortunately, only begun. While some countries are approaching 50% of their populations having been vaccinated – many are yet to start.
- Too many.
- It remains a fact that nobody's safe until everybody's safe.
- It also remains a tragic fact that many countries are also facing shortages of medical oxygen.
- It is estimated that more than 1 million people need more than 4 million cylinders of oxygen per day in low- and middle-income countries.
- Vaccine dose sharing is starting to happen. Several countries have either made donations – or are in the process of making them.
- We must advance that momentum – and amplify it.
- However, making these essential pandemic fighting tools available is not sufficient.
- We must ensure that they are used the most in countries where the needs are highest.
- It is crucial that we focus on how ACT-Accelerator's Health Systems Connector is linked with the in-country response.
- In order to control the pandemic, we need functioning health systems on the ground to deliver the Covid-19 tools.
- Much has changed since our first meeting just 8 months ago.
- We have raised 14 billion dollars in order to provide vaccines and tests – and for boosting advances in treatments and health systems.
- We have a very detailed strategy – we are having an impact.
- But it is far from enough.
- The next month is critical to our advocacy – to our financing campaign – to stopping the pandemic.

Thank the EC Commissioner Kyriakidis and Dr Tedros for co-hosting the Council meetings and hand the floor to DG to say a few words.