ACTaccelerator
ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS

Chairs' Summary of the 2nd Meeting of the Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator Facilitation Council

Held on the 3 November 2020 and co-Chaired by Dr Zweli Mkhize, Minister of Health of South Africa and Mr Dag Inge Ulstein, Minister of International Development, Norway, the 2nd meeting of the ACT-A Facilitation Council had two objectives; to present and discuss:

- ACT-Accelerator progress made and key challenges that threaten the equitable access to Covid-19 tools;
- The macroeconomic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and the case of investing in the ACT-Accelerator.

- The ACT Accelerator partnership has made significant and concrete progress since our last meeting on 10 September. In diagnostics, ACT Accelerator partners have negotiated a price-volume guarantees that (if funded) will make available 120 million affordable, quality Covid-19 rapid tests for Low and Low-Middle Income Countries; in therapeutics, an agreement has been secured to help facilitate future access to monoclonal antibody therapies in LMICs; and in vaccines, the COVAX Facility now has 186 countries and economies engaged in the collective pursuit of fair and equitable access to vaccines;
- The meeting recalled the current Covid-19 situation and its impact on health services and communities;
- The case was made that the fastest and most effective solution to the Covid-19 crisis is through global multilateral collaboration and solidarity – an assertion that was fully backed up by the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) recent estimates that if medical solutions can be made available faster and more widely it could lead to a cumulative increase in global income of almost $9 trillion by end-2025, raising incomes in all countries and reducing income divergence;
- It was, however, again acknowledged that urgent and stronger political support and full financing of the ACT-Accelerator is needed. Around US$4.5 billion is needed immediately and a further US$23.9 billion is needed by the end of 2021 in order to accelerate the discovery, scale up in manufacturing, procurement and deployment of new Covid-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to all people, everywhere while strengthening related health systems;
- **We therefore emphasize, as a matter of urgency, the need for collectively securing the financial resources required to scale-up for impact and to change the course of the pandemic. We must honour and realize our shared commitment to fair & timely allocation to leave no one behind in this crisis;**
- It is necessary to go beyond planned Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget levels to ensure that crucial development agendas are not interrupted and that the urgent financing needs of the ACT-Accelerator are met. In this context, we urge all countries (whether through domestic stimulus or the use of concessional loans) to consider global investments in controlling the pandemic through ACT-Accelerator as a very cost-effective form of macroeconomic stimulus;

- The private sector also has an important role (and interest) in bringing the Pandemic to an end, and we encourage corporate and philanthropic actors to invest in the ACT-Accelerator;
- There are several issues that will need to be addressed as we get closer to full scale production, distribution and allocation of vaccines, therapeutic and diagnostic tools. Concerns were voiced regarding technology transfers and management of Intellectual Property Rights as well as risk management and mitigation that should be taken forward by the Pillar co-convenors. A more balanced funding of the four ACT-Accelerator pillars is also necessary;
- The Co-Chairs looked forward to additional investments being announced at the Paris Peace Forum (11-13 Nov) and recognize the importance of further opportunities presented by upcoming events including the G20 Summit (21 Nov) and the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the Covid-19 pandemic (3-4 Dec) to advocate for joint efforts to end the Covid-19 pandemic through the ACT-Accelerator;
- The next full meeting of the ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council will take place in late January/early February with an interim consultation to advance preparations in mid-December.

Summary of the programme – 2nd Council Meeting, 3 Nov 2020

Co-Chairs: MoH, South Africa & Min Int'l Dev, Norway

Participation: 165 delegates & invitees online

Session I – Access to ACT-A's New & Emerging Tools

- Keynote: Sir Witty, WHO Special Envoy
- Panel: Dr Nsanzimana (Rwanda), Sir Farrar (Wellcome)
- Speakers: St Kitts & Nevis, Singapore, Japan, China, Republic of Korea, Russia, Vietnam, Spain, Saudi Arabia

Session II – Urgent Macroeconomic Case for ACT -A

- Keynote: Lord Jim O'Neill & Petya Koeva (IMF)
- Panel: Ms Murthi (World Bank), J Denton (ICC), Dr Carolyn Gomes (CSO)
- Speakers: Canada, India, Brazil, CSO

Closing Call to Action

- France & Saudi Arabia (Paris Peace Forum & G20)
- UK & Italy (incoming G7 & G20)