ACTaccelerator
ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS
Hosted by World Health Organization

ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council

Terms of Reference

The ACT-A Facilitation Council (hereafter referred to as 'the Council'), was formally launched during a virtual meeting of its Members on 10 September 2020[1]. The following Terms of Reference were endorsed during this meeting.

Mission

To provide high-level political leadership and enabling advice to facilitate the work of the "Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator" (ACT-A), its global collaborative framework, and its partnerships to ensure the realization of the ACT-A vision: the rapid development, scale-up and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, underpinned by relevant strengthening of health systems. The advice of the Council would include advocacy for collective approaches to solutions in the global interest and for the mobilization of additional resources as needed.

Principles

- A motivated, flexible, agile and diverse group of influential world leaders who are committed to creative collaboration and supporting the ACT-A vision in the global interest;
- No legal status and no duplication of existing multilateral bodies;
- Time-limited (up to 18 months, extendable as needed[2]), outcome focused and restricted to COVID-19 related products;
- Subsidiarity applies – the Council acts in support of the partners in each Pillar, who are the central actors of the ACT-A framework and responsible for the delivery of their objectives.

Primary Functions

1. To provide high-level advice and guidance to ACT-A Pillars, Principals and Partners:
    - Review ACT-A investments, progress towards its goals and outcomes;
    - Assist ACT-A in addressing major strategic, policy and financial challenges identified by the partners and Pillars, to enable delivery of/equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics;
    - Enhance cross-partnership coherence, transparency and accountability.
2. To provide global leadership and advocacy for ACT-A:
    - Deepen global understanding of the ACT-A imperative and economic case for investment;

[1] The Annex to these ToRs was updated 22 January 2022.

[2] The ACT-Accelerator partnership will continue its collaboration until at least end September 2022 as per the current ACT-Accelerator Strategic Plan. The Council will likewise continue its mandate for this period. The need for a further extension of this work will be reassessed in June 2022.

- Regularly amplify the successes of ACT-A globally to harness the trust and support needed to garner the necessary political backing and financing;
- Actively champion the mobilization of resources domestically, within multilateral fora and globally for ACT-A to deliver on its promise;
- Share insights into opportunities for ACT-A, as well as emerging risks and shifts in the external environment;
- Mobilize the broader global community of ACT-A stakeholders including Industry, Civil Society and Citizens themselves.

Membership Composition

The Council composition (Annex 1) has been carefully composed to ensure appropriate and diverse representation of global leaders and partners. It includes countries that collectively represent key founding ACT-A members and donors, market shapers and regional cooperation groups. It also includes 2 co-hosts, 2 WHO Special Envoys for ACT-A and 3 non-government partners. Industry representatives and civil society representatives will be invited to meetings.

Heads of State and Government will be invited to the 1st Council meeting. Representation to Council meetings may be delegated to Ministerial level.

Council members do not receive donor funding or resources pledged from entities represented in the Council, with the exception of WHO which serves as a co-host.

Mode of operation

- The Council will select from within its membership two co-Chairs (one from the Global South and one from the Global North), who will convene the meetings and propose the agenda;
- The Council will meet at least every quarter with additional meetings on an as-needed basis, on the initiative of the co-Chairs or at the request of the members;
- Sub-groups (and their membership) of the Facilitation Council, for example gathering the donors, will be established at the discretion of the co-Chairs to support defined areas of work;
- The ACT-A Hub at WHO will provide logistics and technical support to the Facilitation Council in preparing the agenda and accompanying documentation and tracking meeting outcomes under the leadership of the Co-Chairs;
- The ACT-A Hub will leverage WHO's Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Infectious Hazards (STAG-IH) and Pillar Co-conveners in support of the Council's work as needed. It may call on the support of experts recommended by Facilitation Council members.

_____

ANNEX: ACT-A Facilitation Council Membership and Composition[3]

Co-Chairs	Co-Hosts
Norway	European Commission
South Africa	World Health Organization

Government members

Regional cooperation groups

Cambodia	Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Chair
Fiji	Pacific Island Forum (PIF), Chair
Kazakhstan	Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Chair
Kuwait	League of Arab States, Chair
Mexico[4]	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), Chair
Nepal	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Chair
Rwanda	New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Senegal	African Union (AU), Chair
Singapore	Forum of Small States, Chair

Founding donors	***Market shapers***	***Additional Government reps***[5]
Canada	Brazil	Cameroon
France	China	Egypt
Germany	India	Malawi
Italy	Indonesia	Nigeria
Japan	Republic of Korea	Pakistan
Norway	Russian Federation	Uganda
Saudi Arabia	South Africa[6]	
Spain	USA	
United Kingdom		

Non-government partners	Envoys & Invitees
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WHO Special Envoys for ACT-A
Wellcome Trust	Civil Society representatives x2
World Economic Forum	International Chamber of Commerce
	ACT-A Principals[7]

[3] *World Bank is an observer*

[4] *Mexico is a founding member*

[5] *In response to recommendations from the ACT-A Strategic Review additional LIC/LMIC were invited to the Council in November 2021*

[6] *South Africa is a founding member*

[7] *Africa CDC, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CEPI, Council CSO reps, DCVMN, European Commission, FIND, Gavi, The Global Fund, IFPMA, IGBA, National Academy of Sciences, Unitaid, UNICEF, Wellcome, WHO, WTO*