22 June 2022

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

ACT Accelerator Facilitation Council

Therapeutics and Diagnostics Working Group

Terms of Reference

Context

The ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council Co-Chairs are proposing to establish a Council Working Group on COVID-19 therapeutics (Tx) and diagnostics (Dx) to improve equitable access in the medium to long term.

The **primary objective** of the Tx & Dx Access Working Group will be to assess current and future barriers to production, demand and accessibility to COVID-19 Tx and Dx and provide recommendations to address these barriers. Consideration will be given to addressing political, legal, financial and policy obstacles and constraints with a focus on affordability of COVID-19 countermeasures and geographical diversity of manufacturing.

Working Group Functions

The Facilitation Council of ACT-Accelerator provides high-level advice and guidance to ACT-A pillars, principals and partners, as well as global leadership and advocacy for ACT-A. A Facilitation Council Working Group has the following tools/mechanisms at its disposal to provide political support:

- Increase political dialogue and build high level political consensus
- Unlock political, legal and policy barriers for increased production and uptake
- Increase information availability and transparency, including transparency of contracts related to the production and supply of therapeutics and diagnostics.

Primary Functions

- The working group will develop a report on the state of play of access to COVID-19 Tx & Dx in LIC/LMICs and provide recommendations to accelerate access though improving legal, financial, logistical and policy mechanisms, in the medium to longer term.
- The report will be submitted to the Facilitation Council by mid-2022 and shared with the G20 and G7. The report can also inform future pandemic preparedness and response efforts.
- The working group will work with Dx & Tx Pillar to keep the full Facilitation Council membership abreast of progress and challenges to inform and drive political-level support and interventions.

Membership Composition

- The Co-Chairs for this Working Group are South Africa and the United Kingdom.

- The following Council members are represented on the Working Group: African Union, Brazil, Canada, European Commission, India, Indonesia, Italy, Norway, Republic of Korea, Senegal and United States of America[1].
- The World Bank and Medicines Patent Pool are also invited to join the Working Group meetings.
- Civil society are invited to propose two representatives, with one representative from a low or lower middle-income implementing country and another from among those supporting the global advocacy agenda.

Mode of operation

- The Tx and Dx Access Working Group will meet as often as needed, particularly in the initiation phase of its work, at the discretion of the Working Group Co-Chairs.
- The Working Group will be supported by the ACT-A Hub, Tx and Dx Pillars.
- The working group will work until September 2022 and provide a report of its work to the Council at this time.

[1] Council members, through an open call, were invited to express their interest to join the Working Group. Criterion was used to select the additional members to ensure balance in membership (geographic, demographic, economic diversity.