

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 2020¹. 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), 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;
 - 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;

¹ The Annex to these ToRs was updated 29 November 2021.

- 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.
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ANNEX: ACT-A Facilitation Council Membership and Composition¹

Co-Chairs

Norway
South Africa

Co-Hosts

European Commission
World Health Organization

Government members

Regional cooperation groups

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| Belarus | Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Chair |
| Cambodia | Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Chair |
| Fiji | Pacific Island Forum (PIF), Chair |
| Kuwait | League of Arab States, Chair |
| Mexico ² | 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

Canada
France
Germany
Italy
Japan
Norway
Saudi Arabia
Spain
United Kingdom

Market shapers

Brazil
China
India
Indonesia
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
South Africa⁴
USA

Additional Government reps³

Cameroon
Egypt
Malawi
Nigeria
Pakistan
Uganda

Non-government partners

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Wellcome Trust
World Economic Forum

Envoys & Invitees

WHO Special Envoys for ACT-A
Civil Society representatives x2
International Chamber of Commerce
ACT-A Principals⁵

¹ World Bank is an observer

² Mexico is a founding member

³ In response to recommendations from the ACT-A Strategic Review additional LIC/LMIC were invited to the Council in November 2021

⁴ South Africa is a founding member

⁵ 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