

# ACTaccelerator

ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS

Fifa Rahman

Board Member, NGO Delegation to the Unitaid Board

Rohit Malpani

Alternate Board Member, NGO Delegation to the Unitaid Board

Kenly Sikwese

Board Member, Communities Delegation to the Unitaid Board

Andriy Klepikov

Board Member, Developing Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund Board

Carolyn Gomes

Alternate Board Member, Developing Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund Board

Maurine Murenga

Board Member, Communities Delegation to the Global Fund Board

Alternate Board Member, Communities Delegation to the Unitaid Board

Erika Castellanos

Alternate Board Member, Communities Delegation to the Global Fund Board

Robin Montgomery

Board Member, Development Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund Board, Chair of the Implementer Group to the Global Fund Board

Joia Mukherjee

Alternate Board Member, Developed Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund Board

Maty Dia

Board Member, Civil Society Organizations Delegation to the Gavi Board

Rafael Vilasanjuan

Alternate Board Member, Civil Society Organizations Delegation to the Gavi Board

Khuat Thi Hai Oanh

Advisory Group Member for the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) and Civil Society Global South Representative for the UHC2030 Steering Committee

Evalin Karijo

Steering Committee Alternate for Global South CSOs, Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030 (CSEM)

Javier Hourcade Bellocq

Advisory Group Member for the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) and Civil Society Community-Based Representative for the UHC2030 Steering Committee

Smitha Sadasivan

Steering Committee Alternate for CBOs, Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030 (CSEM)

Justin Koonin

Advisory Group Member for the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) and Civil Society Global North Representative for the UHC2030 Steering Committee

Masaki Inaba

Steering Committee Alternate for Global North CSOs, Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030 (CSEM)

7 July 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We thank you for your letters of 5 and 17 June 2020.

The novel coronavirus continues to affect millions worldwide, especially the most vulnerable people living in countries with fragile health systems. We can only deal with this pandemic effectively if we have the right tools and if everyone has equitable access to those tools at the same time. In pursuing this goal, we strongly believe that civil society and community organizations have critical roles to play, especially in ensuring the successful realization of the ACT Accelerator goals. Civil society and community organizations must be an integral and indispensable part of this new and ambitious endeavour.

In this context, we have greatly appreciated your letters, views and suggestions, reviewing them carefully, discussing them in detail within the ACT pillars and twice considering the ideas with the entire ACT Principals as a group. We have also reviewed best practice with respect to CSO and community engagement in global public health initiatives and across such organizations to align on common principles to support CSO and community engagement in ACT. As a basic principle, we concur that there must be CSO and community organization engagement in all ACT Pillars and in Cross-Cutting Access & Allocation workstream that is led by WHO. We also concur that the specifics of the engagement within each Pillar must be tailored to its work and needs to be as effective and efficient as possible.

Based on our discussions, and recognizing the commitment of the ACT founders and ourselves to use existing mechanisms rather than creating any new entities or bureaucracies, we would like to proceed as follows in enhancing the engagement of CSOs and community organizations in the work of ACT:

1. **The primary channel for CSO and community engagement in ACT will be at the level of the Pillars and the Cross-Cutting Access & Allocation Workstream**, as ACT's work is entirely driven by and within these self-managing entities. This engagement is the responsibility of, and coordinated by, the relevant Pillar Co-Conveners through the CSO focal points of those agencies, their pillar workstream leads and their organizational structures (e.g. CSO board seats).

We respect that Co-conveners will tailor the engagement to the work, needs and realities of their Pillars. Consequently, the extent and nature of your engagement will differ by Pillar, including in the number of workstreams or sub-workstreams involved.

2. **The ACT Hub ([ACTaccelerator@who.int](mailto:ACTaccelerator@who.int)) will serve as an information clearing house and connector for CSOs and community organizations**, facilitating discussions on cross-Pillar topics and providing information. The Hub can establish connections with Pillar Co-Conveners and workstream leads, share information of interest to CSOs, and convene information-exchange sessions.
3. **The ACT Facilitation Council, once it is established, will provide an opportunity for engaging at that level**, to ensure civil society and community representatives can share their important perspectives and bring relevant topics and concerns to the attention of this body.

We are grateful for your having established interim arrangements for CSO and community representation in ACT as recruitment processes are established. We also welcome your proposal to manage this process using existing structures. From our side, the ACT Pillar Co-Conveners and WHO – for the Cross-Cutting Access & Allocation Workstream – are working to finalize their respective CSO engagement arrangements by end July 2020.

We conclude by again thanking you for your initiative and for your commitment to join forces in accelerating an end to this pandemic. We reaffirm our strong conviction that CSOs and community organizations are an integral part of ACT.

In solidarity

Signed

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus  
Director-General, World Health Organization

Dr Richard J. Hatchett  
Chief Executive Officer, CEPI

Dr Seth Berkley  
Chief Executive Officer, Gavi

Dr Jeremy Farrar  
Director, Wellcome Trust

Dr Philippe Duneton  
Executive Director a.i., Unitaid

Dr Catharina Boehme  
Chief Executive Officer, FIND

Mr Peter Sands  
Executive Director, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Dr Muhammad Pate  
Global Director of Health, Nutrition and Population, World Bank Group

Dr Chris Elias  
President, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

cc. Office of Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President, European Commission