



President Ursula Von der Leyen
European Commission
Rue de la Loi
Brussels
10 November 2020,

How the EU can lead by example on the global fight against COVID

Dear President Von der Leyen,

The EU has shown much-needed leadership in multilateral efforts to fight COVID, from hosting the 4 May and 27 June pledging conferences and being a founding partner of the Access to COVID Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), to announcing the intention to co-host a Global Health Summit in 2021. Yet, significant additional funds that complement, rather than replace, ODA are still required for the global response.

Working together is the only way out of the pandemic. ACT-A is our greatest hope to end the crisis as quickly as possible and will benefit everyone around the world, including EU citizens. At the same time, it is the best investment the EU can make. It would be absorbed in less than 36 hours once global mobility and trade alone are restored.

ACT-A urgently requires US\$4.6 billion as part of their overall US\$28.4 billion funding gap. In order to mobilise the necessary financing, we're calling on the EU to:

- **commit to allocating 1% of all stimulus programmes to multilateral programmes**, to rid the world of COVID as quickly as possible, investing in pandemic preparedness, and prevention, and in health systems strengthening.
- **step up with an ambitious pledge of €1.2bn to ACT-A**. This sum is considerable, but accounts for less than 0.2% of the €750bn recovery package approved by EU leaders, and is the best investment the EU could make. To deliver this ambitious pledge, the EU can draw from a diversity of funding sources including:
 - **The current budget flexibility** - ensuring international efforts to end COVID are a core part of efforts to steady the domestic economy;
 - **Additional top ups to Horizon Europe, EU4Health and NDICI programmes**, as requested by the European Parliament;
 - **Innovative financing mechanisms like EFSD/EFSD+;**
 - **Flexibility instruments;**
 - **Any funds not spent from the current MFF.**

In addition to fulfilling its financial responsibility to ACT-A, **we are calling on the EU to back strong equitable access policies within ACT-A**, including on fair pricing, transparent procurement, and access to intellectual property. **The EU's Vaccine Strategy can complement the objectives of ACT-A** to by aligning its procurement volume with the WHO's allocation guidelines and committing to donate viable, surplus doses to the COVAX facility stockpile.

We need urgent action to make sure that the pandemic ends as quickly as possible and to prevent future pandemics taking hold. By making the above commitments, the EU can help make this happen. We are keen to discuss these recommendations with you and your teams at your earliest convenience.

Yours,

[Redacted], Pandemic Action Network
[Redacted], Global Citizen
[Redacted], Aidsfonds
[Redacted] Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)
[Redacted], Global Health Advocates
[Redacted] The ONE Campaign