

President Ursula Von der Leyen
European Commission
Rue de la Loi Brussels

17 November 2020,

Dear President Von der Leyen

G20 summit, 21-22 November 2020, suggested communiqué language

The triple health, economic and social crisis caused by COVID has deeply affected people across the globe, and will rightly feature high on the agenda of the forthcoming G20 summit. The G20 countries have responded with an unprecedented set of measures, including economic stimulus packages that already exceed \$11 trillion. These have been necessary steps to help mitigate the impact of COVID in G20 countries. Yet by contrast, only limited funds have been provided to the global response so far, despite near universal acknowledgement by leaders that we will not end this crisis until and unless we act together.

Working together is the only way out as the virus doesn't know any borders. The ACT-Accelerator is our best bet to end the pandemic as quickly as possible. On current estimates, ACT-A has a \$28bn funding gap, \$4.6bn of which is for urgent needs in coming months. The overall target of \$38bn funding target needs to be met by the end of 2021. The EU has shown great leadership on ACT-A including at the Paris Peace Forum last week – we thank you for the additional EUR 100m pledged. However, in order to mobilise the necessary financing for ACT-A, the EU should step up with an ambitious overall pledge of EUR1.2 billion, and to announce a substantial part of it at the upcoming G20 summit. Not only is that the right thing to do ethically, but these sums are also the best investment you can make today to end this crisis for every citizen in every country as quickly as possible. The smartest investments and decisions you could now make are those that end the crisis globally and prevent, and adequately prepare for future pandemics. We are therefore calling on you to adopt the following language in the upcoming G20 Communiqué:

1 Investing in the global and equitable response, including ACT-A, and in pandemic preparedness and prevention efforts

The forthcoming G20 Summit should be used to raise funds towards the \$4.6bn funds that are urgently needed by ACT-A partners. We therefore suggest the following language, with the 'Xbn' reflecting the overall amount raised by G20 partners at the Summit in fresh funds to make a significant contribution towards the \$4.6bn funding gap for urgent needs.

“Without action at the international level to address long-term gaps in pandemic preparedness and response, we will not succeed in defeating COVID or preventing future pandemics. We therefore commit to mobilize the equivalent of 1% of our stimulus packages to the COVID response, the international impact of COVID and to pandemic prevention and preparedness, with initial funds going to the Access to COVID-19 Tools

Accelerator (ACT-A). As a first step, we pledge an additional Xbn for ACT-A to address the urgent financing gaps that need to be filled in 2020. We will further ensure global equity is at the heart of the ACT-A by prioritising multilateral action over bilateral action and ensuring that distribution mechanisms and allocation frameworks are based on equitable terms. Products should be both accessible to Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) as soon as they become available and suitable for LMIC settings. We also ask Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to swiftly consider ways to strengthen the financial support for the ACT-A, including by using the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Special drawing rights (SDRs)."

- 2 Working on long-term solutions **to address pandemic preparedness and prevention at the multilateral level, as recommended in the [Pandemic Action Network's policy briefing](#)**

"To safeguard the future, we agree to work towards setting up a long-term multilateral platform for pandemic preparedness and response. Such a platform would act as a universal, equitable, efficient, sustained funding and coordination platform to address pandemic preparedness and prevention gaps, including increasing global and national investments in pandemic preparedness and response; building country capacity to detect, prevent, and respond to outbreaks; strengthening early outbreak detection, analytics, and data systems; accelerating global health research and development for epidemic-risk diseases; securing reliable access to personal protective equipment and other pandemic supplies, as well as improving leadership for metrics and accountability for health security.

We are keen to discuss these recommendations with you and your teams at your earliest convenience. Global Citizen is a global movement supported by 4 million citizens worldwide and the Pandemic Action Network has over 40 partners, and we each help convene weekly calls on ACT-A, pandemic preparedness and the impact of COVID. We would welcome the opportunity to be able to feed in the views of our teams and our broader networks into the discussions with you and your colleagues.

With the disease continuing to make unwelcome returns in countries around the world, we cannot delay in doubling down on the solutions we know work, the equitable principles we know will save our people and our economies, and on preparing to prevent future pandemics before the next wave, or the next disease hits.

We are at your service to meet and further our shared objectives in this regard at your earliest convenience.

Yours,


Pandemic Action Network
Global Citizen
International Chamber of
Commerce