

## **United Nations and partners call for global solidarity, urging critical support for international initiative to end COVID-19 as death toll nears a million**

**High-level Virtual Event: Tackling Covid-19 together through the ACT-Accelerator  
75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

Wednesday, 30 September 2020

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. EDT | [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org)

**New York, 28 September** - United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, the World Health Organization's Director-General, Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus and the governments of the United Kingdom and South Africa, will co-host a high-level event, urgently calling for support for the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator - the multilateral approach, and the most comprehensive and promising solution to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ACT-Accelerator, which was launched in April to bring about a large-scale coordinated response to the global crisis, needs \$35 billion to mount an end-to-end solution at the scale and speed required to save lives and livelihoods, and ultimately help the world recover and rebuild from the devastating pandemic. The initiative's four pillars of work cover all aspects of development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines.

In recent days, the governments of the United Kingdom and Canada have announced financial support and more pledges are expected at the event.

### **Real urgency in numbers**

The Secretary-General and the Director-General have warned that the “window of opportunity” to act swiftly is now - to tackle a crisis which has paralyzed the world, shutting down economies and killing nearly 1 million people in less than a year.

The threat continues as new infections rise in parts of the world, including in the Americas and South-East Asia. In mid-September, WHO said that Europe’s weekly cases exceeded those reported in March, when the pandemic first peaked in the region, warning of “a very serious situation unfolding before us.”

Of the \$35 billion, \$15 billion is needed immediately to fund research and development, scale up manufacturing, secure procurement and strengthen delivery systems by the end of the year. The initiative’s vaccine arm, the COVAX Facility, is supporting the development of nine vaccines, with several more in the pipeline.

According to WHO’s latest investment case to urge more support, although the funding may seem daunting, fully financing the ACT-Accelerator will shorten the duration of the crisis, allowing the world to recover the investment in just a matter of days as the global economy picks up.

The ACT-Accelerator has achieved significant progress in just five months, including evaluating more than 50 diagnostic tests as well as 1,700 clinical trials for promising treatments, and securing Dexamethasone to help up to 4.5 million patients in lower-income countries. More than 150 countries, representing nearly two-thirds of the global population, are now committed to or eligible to receive vaccines through the initiative.

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## Press Conference by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed

28 September 12:30 p.m. EDT | [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org)

Ahead of the event, the Deputy Secretary-General will brief the media on the work of the ACT-Accelerator and expectations for the event.

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## High-level Event

### Tackling COVID-19 together through the ACT-Accelerator

30 September 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. EDT | [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org)

Speakers will include UN Secretary-General **António Guterres**; WHO Director General **Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus**; President **Cyril Ramaphosa** of South Africa; Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** and Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs **Dominic Raab** of the UK; Prime Minister **Erna Solberg** of Norway; Chancellor **Angela Merkel** of Germany, Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** of Canada; Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation **Bill Gates**; and World Bank Group President **David Malpass**.

**Register to attend the event:** [bit.ly/register-ACT](https://bit.ly/register-ACT)

**UN Event Website:** [un.org/en/coronavirus/act-accelerator](https://un.org/en/coronavirus/act-accelerator)

**For more information, please visit:**

WHO ACT-Accelerator Website: [who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator](https://who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator)

Status Report & Plan: [bit.ly/ACTAcceleratorStatusReport](https://bit.ly/ACTAcceleratorStatusReport)

Economic Investment Case: [bit.ly/ACTAcceleratorInvestmentCase](https://bit.ly/ACTAcceleratorInvestmentCase)

UN COVID-19 Response Portal: [un.org/en/coronavirus](https://un.org/en/coronavirus)

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