On this issue of financing, it is clear that extraordinary measures are required to unlock the US\$35 billion needed by March 2021 to scale up the development, manufacture and equitable allocation of 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines, 245 million treatments and 500 million diagnostic tests.

We are pleased to share with you the final versions of the just-published ACT-Accelerator Status Report & Plan and Economic Investment Case & Financing Requirements that incorporate Council comments. These documents are now guiding the scale-up of the ACT-Accelerator and provide the economic justification for the financing that is urgently required to realize its promise. The detailed budgets for each Pillar and the assumptions that underpin the Investment Case will be published in the weeks ahead.

To mobilize the required resources for the ACT Accelerator in the required timeframe, we believe that leaders will have to go beyond current official development assistance levels and consider contributions as part of economic stimulus spending. Only by tackling severe COVID-19 disease globally will economic vitality be restored at home and catastrophe be averted in the poorest countries.

ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council members have a vital role to play in bringing an end to this pandemic. We look forward to working with you to realize the goal of the ACT-Accelerator and to 'Act Together to end COVID-19'. Please feel free to contact us as your co-Chairs, either directly or through the dedicated email account ACTACouncilCoChairs@who.int that has been established for this purpose.

Please accept the assurance of our highest consideration.

ACT-Accelerator Co-chairs:

Mr Dag-Inge Ulstein Minister of International Development Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway Dr Zwelini Mkhize Minister of Health National Department of Health, South Africa