



23 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister Rutte,

Largely because of European leadership over the past two months, the international community is committed to cooperating to end this pandemic. The 4 May pledging event was an unprecedented demonstration of global solidarity, and we welcome both the ambitious pledges to the ACT-A and the universal agreement to the core principles of vaccine equity. This is an impressive start, and we now ask for your continued leadership to ensure these principles are put into practice.

**The Global Goal: Unite for our Future Summit on 27 June will be the next major milestone in this international effort. To fully leverage this moment, we ask that you not only firmly back the new ACT-A Case for Investment, but also ensure that new financing commitments are tied to clear mechanisms to guarantee vaccine accessibility and affordability.** While we welcome the chorus of voices calling for vaccine equity, further steps are required to ensure vaccines and treatments become available to all, including by enforcing clear requirements for recipients of ACT-A funds and procurement contracts under both the EU procurement initiative and the Inclusive Vaccines Alliance. You can achieve this by making four strong commitments on 27 June.

1. **Commit to ambitiously funding the new ACT-A Case for Investment:** With a new Case for Investment being launched two days before, the Summit on 27 June must open a new chapter in global efforts to mobilize funds to fight Covid-19. Significant progress has been made, but this is just the start of a global marathon to meet unprecedented needs. If the vaccine is not available to everyone, we are all at risk. This means it is in the best interest of every country to urgently mobilize the necessary funds needed to defeat COVID-19.
2. **Ensure that all companies receiving public funds are subject to mandatory conditions on non-exclusive licensing and pro-public safeguards on pricing:** Despite generous public taxpayer support for the ACT-A, private pharmaceutical companies still control every aspect of production, pricing and allocation of future vaccines and treatments. Donor conditions on funding recipients will not only protect taxpayer investments, but also allow for the scaled-up, global manufacturing at an affordable cost. The Netherlands should endorse the COVID-19 Technology Access pool (C-TAP) and encourage all EU partners to do so too.
3. **Enact strict transparency requirements on pharmaceutical companies receiving public funds or benefiting from EU procurement contracts:** Transparency must be at the heart of all COVID-19 vaccine responses, both to ensure accountable use of public funds and prevent artificial inflation of prices. The Netherlands should maximize its leverage to stipulate that pharmaceutical companies comply with rigorous transparency standards, including fully disclosing research and development costs, production capacity assessments, and substantiation of pricing.
4. **Ensure the EU's vaccine procurement and the Inclusive Vaccines Alliance are aligned with global allocation guidance:** These strategies will set the level of ambition for other regions around the world. Therefore, it is essential that they include an explicit commitment to use the World Health Organization's global allocation guidance to inform purchasing agreements, procurement volume and distribution. This will prevent repeating the experience of the H1N1

vaccine procurement, which resulted in millions of unused doses in EU Member States, critically reducing vital supply for lower-income countries.

In the face of a global pandemic that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, business as usual will not be enough; ending this pandemic will require strong leadership to prioritize public interests over profits. With the political winds behind your backs, now is the time to make these bold decisions, and guarantee a safe and equitable future for all. We appreciate the on-going dialogue with your team on these issues, and look forward to further constructive discussions.

Sincerely,

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Emily Wigens

EU Director, The ONE Campaign