

ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council Briefing, 6 July 2021

Opening remarks, Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi,

Acting Minister of Health for South Africa

- COVID 19 cases in Africa are increasing faster than all earlier peaks; variants are powering the third wave of infections on our continent
- The global health community has to confront these inequities if we are to control this pandemic.
- We have crossed the figure of 3 billion vaccine doses administered, and still only 0.3% of those have gone to low-income countries
- Of the 2, 6 billion tests performed globally less than 4% of these have been administered in Africa, and yet we represent over 17 percent of the global population.
- We need to mobilize resources to fund medical oxygen storage and infrastructure, pay for emergency supplies and finance the transportation of equipment and other tools needed.
- These persistent inequities are translating into countless preventable deaths while the world has the tools to stop this.
- Member States who can donate vaccines must be urged to do so with speed and let us work together to close the ACT Accelerator financing gap of US 16.8 Billion.
- I remain, however, encouraged by the tireless efforts of the ACT-A partners and some countries to address the issues on vaccine supply. Since our last meeting, there has been progress in the efforts to increase manufacturing capacity, and we look forward to hearing today how the vaccine manufacturing working group is supporting the COVAX vaccine manufacturing Task Force in advancing this agenda.
- In South Africa, an mRNA technology transfer hub is being established to scale up production and access to COVID-19 vaccines, the first of its kind. Whilst it will take many months to realize this, it is a positive message

that it can and should be done; we need to see initiatives of this kind expanded to other continents, particularly in Latin America

- This and more we will hear today as we focus on the urgent needs across ACT-A Pillars and what needs to be done now.