

Intervention - Conférence de lancement de la campagne de mobilisations de ressources en faveur de la lutte contre le Covid-19

Lundi 4 mai 2020

***Madam President von der Leyen,
Excellencies,***

Let me first thank you, Madam President, for the European Union 's leadership in organizing this conference and thank those who already announced additional contributions.

- 1) **First, I want to recall that the Global threat of Covid19 requires a global response**, because it strikes everyone, everywhere, at almost the same time. The unique partnership we launched with our key partners, now known as the ACT, is the best collective and coordinated response we could hope.

To combat the virus, we certainly need vaccines. But before they become available, **we need new tools, new treatments and better diagnostics to curb the trend of contaminations and deaths, now.**

- 2) Second, Unitaid is the official co-convener of the therapeutics partnership and an active partner of diagnostics and health systems strengthening pillars. **Resources to Unitaid will serve to ensure that medicines and diagnostics are adapted to everyone, everywhere, in both the North and South.** We will focus on unblocking market barriers to these products.
- 3) **Finally we also need to ensure equitable access to these new tools** and make sure all those who need them, can access them. In that regard, **we should learn from the positive experience of the Medicines Patent Pool**

in making HIV treatments available to most of those who need them and support the implementation of a global voluntary pooling mechanism for Covid19 related technologies, as proposed by WHO and the President of Costa Rica.

Unitaid thanks you for your support to win this new fight everywhere as we, together, succeeded in the past against other diseases.