**Urgent Advocacy Call**

**1. Introduction and Background**

ACT members and forums throughout the world are involved in advocacy on different issues and at different levels on a daily basis. Situations that require immediate action, or global support from the wider membership of the ACT Alliance may arise. In such cases, ACT Alliance will use its influence and contacts to immediately lobby or advocate.

Therefore, the ACT Alliance Urgent Advocacy Call is a mechanism for ACT members and forums to ask for global support in emerging difficult situations. It serves to mobilise the entirety of ACT Alliance towards major issues and cases where quick advocacy action is required.

**2. Objective of ACT Alliance Urgent Advocacy Call**

The objective of the ACT Alliance Urgent Advocacy Call is to **enable ACT members and forums at national and regional level to call upon the global ACT Alliance for solidarity and action on advocacy when this is needed urgently.** Where necessary, resources can be mobilised from the alliance membership to support the urgent advocacy action.

**3. Scope**

The ACT Alliance Urgent Advocacy Call responds to issues faced by all ACT members, forums and their partners in the following situations:

**3.1 Individuals or organisations facing imminent risk.**

This is in cases where either individuals or organisations are being, or run the risk of being, persecuted, jailed or in other ways face substantial threats in the course of their work.

**3.2 Shrinking political space**

This is a situation where the political or human rights situation is rapidly deteriorating, ACT members are affected, and regional or global response or solidarity is needed.

**3.3 Advocacy opportunities**

This is a situation where an ACT member, national or regional forum, involved in a particular advocacy process, requests that ACT members globally reinforce this with targeted advocacy in their respective countries or at international arenas, such as the UN Security Council, UN Human Rights Council, AU, EU, etc.

**4. Process**

The process should be timely, efficient and ensure proper consultation and coordination between the most relevant structures of the alliance, as directed by the AGA. In each case, the ACT Alliance advocacy policy and procedures will be applied.

**4.1 Launching the Urgent Advocacy Call**

In scenarios above the ACT national forum coordinator/chairperson should be contacted and the decision to launch a global call for advocacy action made at that level. After the decision has been made, the forum coordinator will contact the ACT Global Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, the relevant Regional Representative and the co-chairs of the AGA simultaneously. While prior consultation and decision making in the ACT forum is the rule, exceptions can be made if there is a matter of great urgency. In cases where there is no forum, the ACT Member can contact directly the ACT Global Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, the relevant Regional Representative and the co-chairs of the AGA simultaneously.

* 1. **Sharing information vs. calling for action**

In all three scenarios the request could either be an **information alert** where the purpose is to inform ACT Alliance about a certain development of a substantial nature or an urgent **advocacy call** where the purpose is to call upon the alliance for a specific action of solidarity and support.

For both cases above, a request should be made in writing using the outline as described below in section 6.0:

**5. Response**

The co-chairs of AGA and the ACT secretariat should respond to the request as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours, and any action taken towards the situation not later than 48 hours. Depending on the nature of the request, the co-chairs of AGA should distribute the request to members of the AGA via the ACT Secretariat to ascertain viability of the call. In cases where there are substantial doubts about the soundness of sending out an urgent advocacy call, the co-chairs and secretariat could decide to amend or not to approve. If so, an immediate response should be sent to the requesting ACT forum or member explaining the reasons for this decision.

Coordinated by the ACT secretariat, an urgent advocacy call will be issued to the membership of ACT Alliance, elaborating specific actions to be taken. A call for action can be limited to certain members, based on the relevance of the issue and their capacity to act. The number of recipients will depend on the target group for the request as outlined by the relevant ACT forum.

Upon receiving an urgent advocacy call ACT Alliance members are requested to take local, national, regional and international advocacy actions to address and influence the situation. The level of action will be determined by the context, and will range from the minimum support of posting statements on their own website and referencing it publically; proactive press release citing partner or setting up online action; to active lobby or campaigning action. This could include maximizing the use of their networks, communication channels, campaign capacity, political and diplomatic contacts etc.

**6. ACT Urgent Advocacy Call Form**

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| **Summary of the issue needing advocacy support from across the Alliance** | | | |
| **Information Only** |  | **Requesting Advocacy Action** |  |
| **If requesting advocacy action - What is the requested advocacy action?** | | | |
| **Request sent to (***Request should be sent to the ACT Global Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, Regional Representative and the AGA co-chairs simultaneously)* | | | |
| **Date Request Sent:** | | | |
| **Timeframe / action needed by when** | | | |
| **Additional information** | | | |
| **Alert submitted by**  Full contact details  Email:  Telephone:  Mobile:  **Details of the forum chair/coordinator:** | | | |
| **Additional Resources provided (e.g. draft press release, draft Facebook post/tweets etc.)** | | | |