

**15th SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON PROGRAM, BUDGET, AND ADMINISTRATION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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NON-STATE ACTORS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH PAHO

Introduction

1. At the 55th Directing Council, Member States of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) adopted the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA) via Resolution CD55.R3 (September 2016). Through this resolution, the PAHO Member States specifically replaced the Principles Governing Relations between the Pan American Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations with FENSA. They also requested the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (the Bureau) to implement FENSA in a manner consistent with the constitutional legal framework of PAHO and to report annually to the Executive Committee through its Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration (SPBA).
 2. “Official relations” is a privilege that the Executive Committee may grant to nongovernmental organizations, international business associations, and philanthropic foundations that have had, and continue to have, sustained and systematic engagement with PAHO that is assessed by both parties as being mutually beneficial. Entities in official relations with PAHO should be regional in membership and/or scope and should have a constitution or similar basic document, an established headquarters, a governing body, and an administrative structure.
 3. Official relations are based on a three-year plan for collaboration with PAHO that has been developed and agreed on jointly by the non-State actor and PAHO. The three-year plan is structured in accordance with the PAHO Strategic Plan and cannot be primarily of a commercial or for-profit nature.
 4. PAHO’s Executive Committee, through the SPBA, considers applications for admitting non-State actors into official relations. It is also responsible for reviewing PAHO collaboration with each non-State actor in official relations every three years, at which time it may decide on the desirability of maintaining official relations or defer the decision to the following year. In addition, the Executive Committee may decide to discontinue official
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relations with a non-State actor if it considers that such relations are no longer appropriate or necessary in light of changing programs or other circumstances. Similarly, the Executive Committee may discontinue official relations if an organization no longer meets the criteria that applied at the time the relations were established, fails to provide updated information or report on the collaboration, or fails to fulfill its part in the agreed program of collaboration.

5. To support the Executive Committee in fulfilling this mandate, the Bureau examines the applications received for admission into official relations with PAHO, as well as proposals from those non-State actors set to renew their designation, in order to ensure that the established criteria and other requirements are met. The Bureau examines the collaboration with each non-State actor over the past three years and the jointly agreed plans for the next three years. The Bureau also identifies which of the four specific policies and operational procedures included in FENSA (i.e., those related to nongovernmental organizations, private sector entities, philanthropic foundations, or academic institutions) applies to each non-State actor. If a non-State actor appears to be subject to the influence of private sector entities to the extent that it should itself be considered a private sector entity, it will be invited to make the necessary adjustments to its policies, governance, or funding prior to its next triennial review.

6. On the basis of the foregoing, the SPBA is invited to consider the application for admission into official relations from one non-State actor and to review the collaboration with nine non-State actors in the context of their triennial review.

Application of Non-State Actor for Admission into Official Relations with PAHO

7. Based on its review of the application for admission into official relations submitted by the non-State actor Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), the Bureau considered that the applicant organization meets the requirements and is therefore presented for consideration by the Executive Committee through the SPBA.

8. Annex A provides information on the application for admission into official relations with PAHO from this non-State actor.

Triennial Review of Non-State Actors in Official Relations with PAHO

9. Currently, there are 27 non-State actors in official relations with PAHO. The Bureau conducts an assessment of each entity when its official relations status comes up for renewal, with approximately one-third of the non-State actors to be assessed each year. This year, nine entities are up for renewal: Action on Smoking and Health (ASH); American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA); Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative - Latin America (DNDi); Framework Convention Alliance (FCA); InterAmerican Heart Foundation (IAHF); Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (FIFARMA); Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension (SLANH); National Alliance for Hispanic Health (NAHH); and Sabin Vaccine Institute (Sabin).

10. As a result of its review, the Bureau recommends that the Executive Committee continue official relations with the nine above-mentioned non-State actors: ASH, ASHA, DNDi, FCA, IAHF, FIFARMA, SLANH, NAHH, and Sabin.

11. Detailed supplementary background documents on each non-State actor mentioned above will be provided separately for consideration by the SPBA.

12. Annex B provides information on PAHO collaboration with the nine entities that are up for renewal. Annex C presents a progress report on the status of ongoing relations with each of the remaining non-State actors in official relations with PAHO. Annex D provides the schedule of SPBA reviews of all non-State actors in official relations with PAHO.

Action by the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration

13. The SPBA is invited to consider recommending that the Executive Committee:
- a) admit one new non-State actor into official relations with PAHO, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; and
 - b) commend the following nine non-State actors for their continuing contribution to the achievement of PAHO's objectives and maintain PAHO's official relations with these non-State actors: Action on Smoking and Health; American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative - Latin America; Framework Convention Alliance; InterAmerican Heart Foundation; Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry; Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension; National Alliance for Hispanic Health; and Sabin Vaccine Institute.

Annexes

Annex A

**APPLICATIONS OF NON-STATE ACTORS FOR
ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH PAHO**

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau recommends admission into official relations with PAHO for the following non-State actor:

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

1. Established in 1996, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) is an advocacy organization working to reduce tobacco use and its deadly consequences in the United States and around the world. Through strategic communications and policy advocacy campaigns, CFTK promotes the adoption of proven solutions that are most effective in reducing tobacco use and other major preventable causes of premature death to improve public health and save lives.
 2. Over the past two years, the following activities have been carried out jointly by CTFK and PAHO:
 - a) CTFK has supported the PAHO Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Tobacco Control in the Region of the Americas 2018-2022 (Document CSP29/11), particularly the efforts to advance the adoption of smoke-free laws and bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship (TAPS).
 - b) CTFK collaborated with PAHO in the 10th Workshop on Law and Tobacco Control for Latin America, “New Products Regulation,” held in Washington, DC, on 10-13 June 2018, and the 11th Workshop on Law and Tobacco Control for Latin America, “Towards the Effective Implementation of the FCTC in Latin America: Smoke Free Environments, Complete TAPS Ban and New Products,” held in Mexico City on 14-16 October 2019. For both events, CTFK coordinated logistics and PAHO sponsored the event in partnership with The Union Latin America Office (International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease) and the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University. These workshops helped build capacity in legal issues, with an emphasis on legal challenges to implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) presented by e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products, and other new products that tobacco companies are introducing in the Region.
 - c) CTFK also supported PAHO in organizing two workshops on tobacco taxes and the economics of tobacco control in Washington, DC. The first, held 5-7 February 2018, was titled “Training on Economics of Tobacco Control for Researchers, Government Officials, and Advocates in Latin America and the Caribbean.” The second, “Simulating Tobacco Tax Increases and Measuring Illicit Trade of Tobacco
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Products in Latin America and the Caribbean,” was held 9-11 July 2019. These workshops were developed to provide capacity building and evidence to promote excise taxes on tobacco products as a control measure and to encourage implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the FCTC and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

- d) CTFK and PAHO signed agreements in 2018 and 2020 aiming to reduce the demand for and offer of processed and ultra-processed food and drink products high in critical nutrients with a view to improving nutrition and curbing the obesity epidemic in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2021-2023) under the work plan for collaboration between CTFK and PAHO:

- a) Strengthen tobacco control capacity in countries of the Region through the dissemination of good practices among government officials, academia, and civil society organizations (CSOs); trainings on tobacco taxes; best legal practices for tobacco control lawyers; effective communication strategies, including publications (regional reports on new products and industry interference), public hearings (advice to national congresses considering tobacco legislation), and consultations; and participation in the Region of the Americas pre-COP meeting ahead of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the FCTC.
- b) Support PAHO efforts to reduce the demand for and offer of sugar-sweetened beverages and energy-dense nutrient-poor products following strategies of the Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents (Document CD53/9, Rev.2).
- c) Collaborate on activities to implement the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Industrially Produced Trans-Fatty Acids 2020-2025 (Document CD57/8) by supporting the adoption of effective policies to ban trans-fatty acids.

Annex B

REVIEW OF EXISTING COLLABORATION WITH NON-STATE ACTORS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH PAHO

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau recommends continuation of official relations status for the following nine non-State actors:

Action on Smoking and Health

1. Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), founded in 1967, is an anti-tobacco organization dedicated to a world with zero tobacco deaths. The organization's focus has been the development and implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, elevating the tobacco epidemic as a development priority through United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and advancing innovative strategies for health. ASH works both domestically and globally to support bold solutions proportionate to the magnitude of the tobacco epidemic.

2. Over the past three years, ASH carried out the following activities under the work plan for collaboration between ASH and PAHO:

- a) Raised awareness of tobacco as a key factor contributing to the prevalence of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and increased inclusion of tobacco control in NCD forums.
- b) Promoted implementation of the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Tobacco Control in the Region of the Americas 2018-2022 (Document CSP29/11) and advanced the use of the WHO FCTC and other global mechanisms to promote tobacco and nicotine interventions.
- c) Encouraged the adoption of tobacco control objectives by global human rights bodies as well as collaboration among health and human rights mechanisms to reduce tobacco use. The collaborative work plan between ASH and PAHO provided the public health community with concrete actions addressing the use of human rights mechanisms to advance tobacco control.

3. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2021-2023) under the collaborative work plan between ASH and PAHO:

- a) Raise awareness of Project Sunset, a campaign to phase out the sale of commercial cigarettes and drive toward a smoke-free world with zero tobacco deaths, and promote the project's feasibility across the Region. This activity will include:
 - Work to identify and educate Latin American nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), regulators, and policy makers on the concept of Project Sunset and
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develop regional advocacy materials, a coalition database, white papers, policy documents, a resource hub, and press releases.

- Provide technical assistance to advocates and coordinate national and global steering committees (coalition building) to ensure buy-in and strategic direction from partner organizations in cross-cutting sectors.
- b) Encourage the adoption of tobacco control objectives by global human rights bodies as well as collaboration among health and human rights mechanisms to reduce tobacco use. The collaborative work plan between ASH and PAHO will provide the public health community with concrete actions addressing the use of human rights mechanisms to advance tobacco control.
- c) Raise awareness of the pervasive influence of the tobacco industry on public health and tobacco control through research, data collection, and consultation with tobacco control partners, advocates, and policy makers. These efforts should result in the publication and dissemination of an annual tobacco industry interference report that highlights activities by the industry before, during, and after the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

4. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), founded in 1925, is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 211,000 members and affiliates seeking to make effective communication a human right that is accessible and achievable for all. ASHA's mission is to empower and support audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists by advancing science, setting standards, fostering excellence in professional practice, and advocating for its members and those they serve.

5. Over the past three years, the following activities were carried out under the work plan for collaboration between ASHA and PAHO:

- a) Technical cooperation with the Bahamas, Belize, Ecuador, and Paraguay to develop capacities in the field of communication disorders.
- b) Joint analysis on the needs of, and services available to, individuals with communication disorders living in Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2021-2023) under the collaborative work plan between ASHA and PAHO:

- a) Continue technical cooperation on communication disorders in Ecuador and the Bahamas. This includes continued provision of technical assistance to the Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador to educate service providers on communication disorders, and to the Ministry of Health of Bahamas, the Ministry of Education of Bahamas, and the University of the Bahamas to develop a speech-language pathology program.

- b) Expand the collaboration between ASHA and PAHO on technical cooperation to develop capacities on communications disorders in at least two new countries of the Region.
- c) Carry out joint analysis between ASHA and PAHO on the needs of, and availability of services to, individuals with communications disorders in the participating countries of the Region.

Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative - Latin America

7. Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative - Latin America (DNDi) is a collaborative, patients' needs-driven, nonprofit drug research and development organization that supports development of new treatments for neglected diseases. DNDi seeks to improve the quality of life and health of people suffering from neglected diseases by using an alternative model to develop drugs for these diseases and by ensuring equitable access to new and field-relevant health tools.

8. Over the past three years, DNDi carried out the following activities under the work plan for collaboration between DNDi and PAHO:

- a) Strengthened the surveillance and control of Chagas disease through integration of Chagas diagnosis and treatment into health systems and through work with partners to implement the PAHO EMTCT Plus strategy (for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, Chagas, and hepatitis B) in selected countries of the Americas.
- b) Organized events and information exchange to increase awareness of hepatitis C in the Region and to promote public health approaches for scaling up access to diagnosis and treatment of the disease, including simplified models of care.
- c) Raised awareness and shared information on policy options to incorporate medicines price transparency in relevant regional debates.
- d) Supported the implementation of PAHO treatment recommendations for cutaneous/mucosal leishmaniasis, visceral leishmaniasis (VL), and HIV-VL coinfection, mostly by developing activities aiming at reducing VL lethality in Brazil.

9. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2021-2023) under the collaborative work plan between DNDi and PAHO:

- a) Leishmaniasis:
 - Support PAHO initiatives to improve access to diagnosis and treatment of leishmaniasis cases, collaborating in the evaluation of local interventions (thermotherapy and intralesional meglumine antimoniate) for the treatment of uncomplicated cutaneous leishmaniasis in Central America and Mexico, following PAHO treatment recommendation guidelines for the Americas.

- Support analysis of global medicine demand and validation of a demand forecasting tool in order to support global production and supply.
 - Support PAHO efforts to reduce the VL lethality rate by 50% in the Region, collaborating in the planning of a study to evaluate the implementation of liposomal amphotericin B as a first-line treatment for VL in Brazil.
 - Contribute to the generation of evidence on treatment of cutaneous leishmaniasis in special populations (children under 10 years and adults above 60 years) and in HIV-VL patients.
- b) Chagas disease:
- Review and propose innovative, sustainable, and quality interventions for the care of people with Chagas disease, contributing to an increase in diagnosis and treatment at the primary health care level, following PAHO guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of Chagas disease.
 - Catalyze the articulation of Chagas programs with HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and viral hepatitis programs in the context of maternal health, in accordance with the technical document for EMTCT Plus.
 - Review and propose, following PAHO guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of Chagas disease, appropriate strategies for testing and treating women of childbearing age in specific epidemiological settings.
 - Simplify the diagnosis of congenital Chagas and develop cost-benefit analysis of universal testing of pregnant women in endemic countries.
- c) Health systems, services, medicines, and health technologies:
- Promote alternative models of research and development (R&D) that address health needs and delink costs of R&D from the prices of health products.
 - Promote discussions and policy actions for improving medicines price transparency, including through information on the total cost of production and R&D and on trends, as well as price disclosure and a better understanding of costs and price structure.
 - Promote strategies and policies to improve pricing outcomes and efficiency and address access barriers, including pooled procurement approaches for neglected tropical diseases and use of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) flexibilities.
 - Develop a joint assessment of barriers to access to medicines and diagnosis for neglected tropical diseases in key countries, particularly for Chagas disease.
- d) Hepatitis C:
- Support actions to facilitate access to affordable diagnosis and treatments for hepatitis C virus, including through analysis of investment cases.

- Promote actions to identify and address access barriers to hepatitis C virus treatments and diagnosis.
- Support actions taken by PAHO and its Member States to develop simplified models of care for hepatitis C virus infection.

Framework Convention Alliance

10. The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) was created in 1999 and formally established in 2013 to help strengthen the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and support its full and accelerated implementation worldwide. FCA is made up of nearly 500 organizations from over 100 countries. The alliance is a leading advocate for including the WHO FCTC and global tobacco control in the international health and development framework, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.

11. Over the past three years, FCA carried out the following activities under the work plan for collaboration between FCA and PAHO:

- a) Organized several events to implement the WHO FCTC, focused on political decision makers and supported by online publications, policy briefings, webinars, and reports. FCA supported PAHO on a regional webinar for debriefing the Meeting of the Parties 1 (MOP1) by providing a civil society perspective.
- b) Provided direct assistance to tobacco control advocates and government representatives to increase awareness and support to countries on WHO FCTC implementation and tobacco control.
- c) Organized several webinars and online training seminars:
 - Webinar on tobacco and cardiovascular health.
 - Webinar on FCTC Article 14, addressing innovative measures to promote smoking cessation in Latin America.
 - Webinar on tobacco control for government and civil society representatives.
 - Online leadership and training seminar on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in the Dominican Republic.
 - Regional webinar to support development of a medium-term strategic framework to accelerate implementation of the FCTC, as called for in COP7 decision FCTC/COP7 (2018).
- d) Promoted integration of the FCTC in national development plans, inclusion of the FCTC in the SDGs debate, and efforts to turn global commitments into meaningful national action. FCA worked with a number of PAHO Member States across the Region to deepen their understanding of the links between tobacco and sustainable development and to ensure that SDG Target 3.a on FCTC implementation was included in the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of progress toward achieving

the SDGs that are presented each year at the high-level political forum on this topic. In addition, FCA was commissioned in 2020 by the FCTC Secretariat to develop a guide for national governments on how to include SDG Target 3.a in their VNRs. This guide has now been published online. FCA has worked with two Member States in the Americas in particular on the development of this guide, which features case studies of work done in Panama and Jamaica.

12. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2021-2023) under the collaborative work plan between FCA and PAHO:

- a) Activities to increase capacity of government and civil society representatives:
- Increase regional awareness of the importance of key COP9 and COP10 proposals and decisions.
 - Promote the Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control as a tool for accelerating implementation at national level of the main FCTC provisions where the Americas are falling behind, such as tobacco taxation policies, advertising bans, a national coordinating mechanism, and tools to prevent tobacco industry interference.
 - Promote the importance of the WHO FCTC and its Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products as tools to strengthen public health outcomes.
 - Work closely with regional CSOs to support and endorse the Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index and the Regional Tobacco Industry Interference Index leading up to COP/MOP.
 - Maintain informed discussions with civil society and government representatives to prevent tobacco industry interference as it relates to COVID-19.
 - Strengthen implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and implementation of tobacco taxation policies in the area of illicit trade control, with particular focus on customs officers and institutions. The work in this area includes translation and dissemination of information and materials within the Region of the Americas to raise delegates' awareness of the FCTC, drafting of policy positions, technical briefings, regional webinars, in coordination with other NGOs and PAHO.
- b) Activities to support government and civil society participation in upcoming COPs and MOPs:
- Increase the preparation and motivation of governments and civil society representatives. This work will include offering regional webinars, coordinating with other NGOs and PAHO, preparing educational/informative materials, and responding to requests from countries.

- Organize capacity-building webinars or other educational/informative resources for Ministry of Foreign Affairs and mission representatives to keep them informed about the COP and MOP.
 - Support Paraguayan CSOs to help them prepare for and contribute to a successful Pre-COP/MOP meeting in Asuncion.
- c) Activities to build civil society capacity to support domestic resource mobilization for tobacco control to help achieve the SDGs.

InterAmerican Heart Foundation

13. The InterAmerican Heart Foundation (IAHF), founded in 1994, is a membership-based organization of heart foundations and related organizations whose collective mission is to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke in the Americas. The IAHF works to reduce morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular diseases and stroke and related chronic diseases; to facilitate development and growth of heart foundations; and to foster partnerships between health professionals and other sectors of society.

14. Over the past three years, IAHF carried out the following activities under the work plan for collaboration between IAHF and PAHO:

- a) Surveyed and analyzed the NCDs landscape in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to produce priorities for country civil society organizations working to support their Member States' advancement in NCDs prevention. Twelve LAC countries participated, along with more than 20 CSOs. The project collected information on relevant policies and indicators on cardiovascular disease and other NCDs and their main risk factors, including tobacco, alcohol, diet/obesity, lack of physical activity, and air pollution.
- b) Mobilized CSOs to involve heads of State and government in processes before and during the UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs in New York City in 2018. Many strategic meetings with CSOs took place to develop an advocacy plan of action.
- c) Supported PAHO Member States in accelerating implementation of the FCTC in the Americas. Bolivia made historic progress by passing Law 1280, "Prevention and Control of the Consumption of Tobacco Products," in February 2020. Other Member States received support for the generation of national tobacco cessation plans according to the guidelines in FCTC Article 14, led by ministries of health and with the participation of all actors involved, including civil society. Support was also provided for the dissemination (via webinars) of information on illicit trade in tobacco.
- d) Conducted a range of activities to strengthen policies aimed at improving nutrition and reducing obesity in LAC, including policies on salt reduction and physical activity. Informative webinars were organized on three priority policies: front-of-package nutrition labeling, taxation of unhealthy food products, and

regulation of advertising of unhealthy food and beverage products to children and adolescents. Significant work has been done to engage civil society in those three policies, to strengthen CSO capacity for advocacy, and to expose and denounce industry interference with regard to policies on unhealthy food and beverage products.

15. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2021-2023) under the collaborative work plan between IAHF and PAHO:

- a) Build capacity of country CSOs to promote regulation of tobacco products.
- b) Support PAHO Member States in implementation of the FCTC; creation of smoke-free environments; bans and monitoring of tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship (TAPS); and regulation of new tobacco products.
- c) Promote formation of a community of practice where advocates and researchers share information and best practices to promote informed policy making on healthy eating and nutritional environments and support nutritional front-of-package labelling policies, regionally and in specific Member States.

Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry

16. The Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (FIFARMA), founded in 1962, is a regional organization representing pharmaceutical companies and local associations of the pharmaceutical industry concerned with research and development in Latin America. It focuses on the development of products and services to improve the lives of patients, with patient safety as one of its main objectives. Its mission is to promote public policies that foster innovation and access to high-tech and high-quality medicines that prolong, preserve, and improve the lives of patients in Latin America.

17. Over the past three years, the following activities were carried out under the work plan for collaboration between FIFARMA and PAHO:

- a) With a view to the harmonization of pharmaceutical regulations and within the framework of projects of the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization (PANDRH), FIFARMA worked with the regulatory authority of Cuba (CECMED) to implement a project titled “Evaluation of the Requirements of the Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (CPP) for Drug Registration Processes in the Americas Region, toward More Timely Access to Drugs and More Convergent Regulatory Approaches.”
- b) FIFARMA, as a member of PANDRH, collaborated in the development of a virtual course, “Sanitary Regulation of Biological and Biotechnological Products,” offered by PAHO to the national regulatory authorities of 18 countries through the Virtual Campus for Public Health. The course was taken by 63 professionals. Audio and study guides were prepared on the manufacture and control of biotechnological products, including biosimilars and vaccines.

c) A communication strategy was developed to address the problem of substandard drugs in the Region. During these years, an initial analysis was conducted in order to subsequently discuss the possibility of implementing a comprehensive strategy under the terms of cooperation between PAHO and FIFARMA. FIFARMA implemented a media campaign in the Region aligned with the global “Fight the Fakes” campaign led by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA).

18. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2021-2023) under the collaborative work plan between FIFARMA and PAHO:

- a) Maintain active engagement within the PANDRH framework to provide technical feedback, recommendations, and materials to inform decision making within PANDRH on issues related to pharmaceutical regulation policy.
- b) Support training activities aimed at promoting good practices in drug manufacturing, experiences in the development of clinical protocols, and risk management plans, among others.
- c) Develop educational material and academic activities to disseminate information on pharmacovigilance, including access to and consolidation of information on COVID-19 vaccines and aspects of periodic safety reports and risk management plans.
- d) Organize virtual seminars to share relevant experiences in countries of the Region, as well as global experiences, in regulatory decision making related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in the analysis of available information to support regulatory actions for emergency management response.
- e) Take steps to detect, prevent, and respond to unregulated, substandard, and/or counterfeit medical products and to develop and implement strategies to combat them. To this end, an analysis will be done using the available statistics on substandard and/or counterfeit drugs in the Region and the measures taken to combat them. Also, materials will be developed, and work teams will be organized at country level.

Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension

19. The Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension (SLANH), created in 1970, is a nonprofit scientific association devoted to the development of nephrology in Latin America. SLANH facilitates tools to train and update its members and helps to solve renal problems. It is an organization of reference for societies of nephrology and for governmental authorities concerned with the subject.

20. Over the past three years, the following activities were carried out under the work plan for collaboration between SLANH and PAHO:

- a) Creation of national registries of patients in renal replacement therapy in Bolivia,

Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru.

- b) A training workshop on the development and monitoring of national registries, attended by most SLANH member countries through representatives of their national nephrology society and ministry of health. At the meeting, each country also presented the current state of its registry.
- c) A workshop entitled “The Situation of Nephrology in Paraguay, Based on SLANH/PAHO/WHO Objectives.” The country’s situation was analyzed, the availability of human and technological resources was evaluated, and estimates were made of the need to expand coverage and access to dialysis and transplantation.
- d) Publication of epidemiological data and information on dialysis coverage and transplantation in Latin America and the Caribbean in journals, studies, and scientific events.
- e) Development of educational strategies for the implementation of renal health programs in the Region, including online courses on three topics: prevention and management of chronic kidney disease for primary health care teams; acute renal injury for the first level of care; and peritoneal dialysis for the multidisciplinary primary care team. In connection with World Kidney Day, seminars were held on “Kidneys and Women’s Health” (2018) and “Kidney Health for All in Latin America” (2019).
- f) Preparation of “Recommendations for the Management of Kidney Disease Patients during the Coronavirus Epidemic (COVID-19),” with the collaboration of the Pan American Association of Infectious Diseases and the Latin American and Caribbean Transplant Society. PAHO disseminated the recommendations on its website.

21. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2021-2023) under the collaborative work plan between SLANH and PAHO:

- a) Consolidate the creation of national registries of patients in renal replacement therapy in all countries of the Region. Monitor newly created registries, and improve the quality of those already in operation.
- b) Update the content, maintenance, dissemination, and impact assessment of online courses for primary health care workers on the following topics: *a)* prevention and management of chronic kidney disease for primary health care teams; *b)* peritoneal dialysis for multidisciplinary primary health care teams; and *c)* acute renal injury in primary care.
- c) Update and disseminate recommendations for the management of COVID-19 in dialysis and transplantation patients in order to mitigate the health impact of COVID-19 in the population with chronic and acute kidney disease.

National Alliance for Hispanic Health

22. Founded in 1973, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health (NAHH) is a science-based and community-driven organization that works to improve the quality of care and its availability to all. Its goal is to close the gaps in three key areas: research, services, and policy; scientific discovery and benefit for the individual; and community services and medical practice.

23. Over the past three years, the following activities were carried out under the work plan for collaboration between NAHH and PAHO:

- a) NAHH established the Buena Salud Américas initiative, joining efforts with PAHO to promote and support multisectoral collaboration in the prevention and control of NCDs. As part of this initiative, a community engagement grant program was established. Six agencies in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, and Puerto Rico were selected as sub-grantees to conduct local initiatives on cervical cancer and human papilloma virus (HPV) prevention and control.
- b) NAHH supported community and civil society participation and coordination of local efforts for NCD prevention and control. Areas of focus included community initiatives addressing cardiovascular health through reduction of tobacco use, promotion of healthy nutrition, and increased physical activity; building the capacity of community-based organizations to engage in advocacy to promote public health policies and systems (e.g., policies on sugar-sweetened beverages and nutrition); and, more recently, prevention of cervical cancer and promotion of HPV vaccination.
- c) Capacity-building activities in NCD advocacy were carried out for community-based partners and civil society groups. The webinar trainings increased knowledge and skills in the use of social media platforms as advocacy and engagement tools for the prevention of cervical cancer and promotion of HPV vaccination.

24. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2021-2023) under the collaborative work plan between NAHH and PAHO:

- a) Continue the cervical cancer community engagement grants to help advance multisectoral approaches to the prevention and control of NCDs in line with the Plan of Action for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control 2018-2030 (Document CD56/9). Activities to be carried out under these grants will promote the prevention of cervical cancer by implementing community health education initiatives to increase knowledge about HPV vaccination.
- b) Strengthen health communication skills among community agencies to support community-based efforts for the prevention of cervical cancer.

- c) Enhance community-based partnerships for tobacco prevention and control with Hispanic communities in the United States, including commemoration of World No Tobacco Day.

Sabin Vaccine Institute

25. Founded in 1993, the Sabin Vaccine Institute (Sabin) is a leading advocate for expanding vaccine access and uptake globally, advancing vaccine research and development, and amplifying vaccine knowledge and innovation. Its mission is to make vaccines more accessible, enable innovation, and expand immunization across the globe. It delivers sustainable, evidence-based solutions that extend the benefits of immunization to everyone, everywhere. Sabin seeks a future free from vaccine-preventable diseases.

26. Over the past three years, the following activities were carried out under the work plan for collaboration between Sabin and PAHO:

- a) Pertussis surveillance in Latin America. The project aimed to improve pertussis surveillance in selected countries through the following activities: pertussis surveillance evaluation and assessment of the laboratory capabilities for pertussis identification; implementation of surveillance and laboratory training for pertussis and provision of ongoing technical assistance and mentorship; and strengthening of pertussis laboratory capacity at country and regional levels to detect *B. pertussis* and more accurately measure the burden of disease.
- b) Meningococcal and pneumococcal disease activities. These brought together experts and key stakeholders in the field of immunization to survey major publications and gaps in current knowledge and with a view to producing a guidance document that sets out a path forward for pneumococcal immunization in the Region.
- c) Adolescent immunization. Workshops were organized to strengthen and support the adolescent immunization platform within the context of adolescent health.
- d) Technical trainings, including a vaccinology course for immunization managers and trainings for journalists. Sabin hosted the annual *Ciro de Quadros Vaccinology Course for Latin America* with support from PAHO. This course convened national and subnational immunization managers from Central and South America with leading experts in the field of vaccinology to familiarize the managers with current global and regional vaccines and vaccination guidelines.
- e) Rotavirus activities. Sabin has partnered with PAHO to implement activities that focus on rotavirus vaccines and prevention. Sabin, serving as organizing secretariat for the International Rotavirus Symposium, invited PAHO to present its successes in vaccine introduction and rotavirus control in the Region to a global community.
- f) Activities to improve vaccine coverage rates. This includes efforts to reduce missed opportunities for vaccination and promote vaccine acceptance and demand in the Region. Sabin, in partnership with PAHO, reviewed available studies and

information about missed opportunities for vaccination and organized a meeting of experts to develop modules of effective interventions to guide Latin American countries going forward.

- g) Multiplex diagnostic study in the Gran Chaco region of South America. The project assessed the burden of neglected infectious diseases and provided the Paraguayan Ministry of Health with relevant data to establish critical treatment programs and provide medical care for underserved populations. The project has also increased diagnostic capacity in the Gran Chaco by training 149 local health workers in laboratory technology, epidemiology, and entomology.

27. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2021-2023) under the collaborative work plan between Sabin and PAHO:

- a) Continue to offer technical trainings, including a vaccinology course for immunization managers. In 2021 Sabin will again host the annual *Ciro de Quadros Vaccinology Course* for Latin America with PAHO's support. This course will convene national and subnational immunization managers from Central and South America with leading experts in the field of vaccinology to familiarize the managers with current global and regional vaccines and vaccination guidelines. Immunization recommendations, issues surrounding vaccination and immunization campaigns, successful strategies, and funding mechanisms will also be addressed. A communication component will help the managers interact more effectively with the press in future situations. Due to COVID-19, Sabin is planning to transition the vaccinology course to a virtual platform in 2021. Sabin will also contribute to capacity building through BOOST, a knowledge network for immunization professionals.
- b) Launch rotavirus activities. Sabin will partner with PAHO to implement activities that focus on rotavirus vaccines and prevention.
- c) Strengthen immunization programs and improve vaccine uptake by educating the media on vaccine science and vaccination policies and programs, strengthening the voices of health care professionals, supporting community-based social and behavioral research, and enhancing understanding of social media influence on vaccination decisions.

Annex C

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STATUS OF ONGOING RELATIONS
BETWEEN PAHO AND NON-STATE ACTORS
IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH PAHO**

American Heart Association

1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the admission of new non-State actors into official relations with PAHO was discussed in the 167th Session of the Executive Committee held on 30 September 2020. The American Heart Association was admitted into official relations with PAHO in that session and, therefore, has not been requested to provide a progress report as there has not been sufficient time to implement the agreed collaborative work plan.

American Public Health Association

2. Due to the unfortunate circumstances and challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Public Health Association (APHA) and PAHO were unable to meet regularly in 2020 and therefore could not engage in as many activities as in previous years. To the extent possible, both organizations have continued to share information and participate in virtual activities such as meetings of the PAHO Governing Bodies and the APHA Annual Meeting.

3. At the APHA 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting, on 19-28 October, PAHO organized two scientific sessions under the conference theme “Creating the Healthiest Nation: Preventing Violence.” The first session, “COVID-19 and the Impact on Violence, Mental Health, and Substance Use,” explored how the pandemic is affecting vulnerable populations in the Americas. Practical examples from countries were highlighted, and strategies to mitigate the pandemic’s impact were discussed.

4. A second session, “Health Inequities, Gender, and Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean,” examined the relationship between health inequities and violence at the intersection with gender. Across the Region of the Americas, violence poses a challenge to public health and human rights. Drawing upon examples from countries, the presenters identified the constructs of gender as a set of historical and cultural attributes, discussed the underlying causes of violence that are rooted in social inequalities, and demonstrated concrete actions that could be taken to address gender-based violence and advance gender equality for all. At the meeting’s Virtual Expo, two exhibits co-sponsored by APHA and PAHO showcased efforts in the Americas to address the COVID-19 pandemic and presented PAHO’s work on healthy cities and violence.

American Society for Microbiology

5. The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) conducted a number of activities to expand on the current collaboration with PAHO (2020-2022). ASM continues to strengthen professional development, engagement, and knowledge sharing around microbiology-based solutions to address antimicrobial resistance, leveraging the expertise in Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. ASM continued to enhance the network of ASM Country Ambassadors and Young Ambassadors to facilitate in-country activities. In early 2020 ASM expanded the program in the Region by appointing new Young Ambassadors in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Jamaica, Panama, and Paraguay. The ASM Young Ambassador to Argentina posted Microbestory on Facebook and Instagram and created a short video series featuring ASM members in Argentina. The first cycle contained 12 videos about different topics related to microbiology, such as antimicrobials, zoonotic diseases, use of microorganisms for human benefit, hospital infections, and antimicrobial resistance, among others. Finally, the successful DivulgaMicro series of science communication workshops, held in universities in each province of Brazil in 2018 and 2019, went virtual in 2020, with a 50-person Zoom event held in September. DivulgaMicro was showcased as an e-poster at Microbe 2020 Online and will be featured in the ASM Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education.

Basic Health International

7. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the admission of new non-State actors into official relations with PAHO was discussed in the 167th Session of the Executive Committee held on 30 September 2020. Basic Health International was admitted into official relations with PAHO in that session and, therefore, has not been requested to provide a progress report as there has not been sufficient time to implement the agreed collaborative work plan.

Global Oncology

8. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the admission of new non-State actors into official relations with PAHO was discussed in the 167th Session of the Executive Committee held on 30 September 2020. Global Oncology was admitted into official relations with PAHO in that session and, therefore, has not been requested to provide a progress report as there has not been sufficient time to implement the agreed collaborative work plan.

Healthy Caribbean Coalition

9. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, much of the work of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) planned for the year 2020 shifted to addressing noncommunicable diseases and their risk factors within the context of COVID-19.

10. Recognizing the need for a multisectoral response, HCC and its member organizations *a)* sent an open letter to CARICOM heads of State and government calling for urgent action to protect those living with NCDs from COVID-19; *b)* issued a joint

statement with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission entitled “Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security in the Caribbean”; and *c*) launched a major advocacy and communication strategy and initiated work on a “New Transformative NCD Agenda for Building Back Better in the Caribbean.” As part of the NCD/COVID-19 work, HCC hosted a number of webinars covering a wide range of topics, including the civil society response to COVID-19, youth perspectives on COVID-19, obesity and COVID-19, and mental health within the context of schools reopening (implemented in partnership with PAHO). HCC supported and showcased the pandemic-related programs of its member CSOs and featured the experiences of people living with NCDs during the pandemic through an initiative called My COVID Story. It also created an online resource page on NCDs and COVID-19.

11. HCC continued work under its childhood obesity prevention agenda, including efforts to strengthen youth engagement around this issue and NCDs more broadly. Despite facing tremendous opposition from the private sector, HCC recognizes the need for public health to take precedence over narrow business interests and has therefore continued to work for the improvement of labelling standards for packaged food and beverages. Similarly, it has continued to advocate for healthy school policies. HCC finalized its institutional conflict of interest policy aimed at identifying, preventing, mitigating, and managing conflicts of interest and also trained civil society organizations in the development of their own policies. Finally, HCC is completing plans to conduct a regional survey of the experiences of people living with NCDs and COVID-19 and an assessment of children’s diets prior to and during the pandemic, with a view to launching a regional digital campaign around the rights of children to access nutritious foods.

Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering

12. Under the collaboration agreement between the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS) and PAHO for work on water, sanitation, and waste in the Region of the Americas, the principal activities in 2020 were:

- a) Organization of a virtual course, “Integrated Water/Sanitation Management with Emphasis on Health Facilities,” with PAHO, UNESCO, AIDIS, and the Guatemalan Association of Sanitary Engineering (AGISA).
- b) Organization of a virtual symposium, “Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Health Facilities,” on 14 October, leading up to Global Handwashing Day. The event supported PAHO’s campaign to motivate the countries of the Americas to advance toward universal access to and sustainable management of water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- c) Preparation of a primer on water, sanitation, and hygiene management during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was shared with PAHO for review.
- d) Development of technical groups in the national congresses of several countries to analyze the progress on Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6): “Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.” In Guatemala, AIDIS participated in a working

- group that evaluated the different water and sanitation accounts using TrackFin (Tracking Financing to WASH)¹ as part of the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) and monitoring of SDG 6.
- e) Presentation of an analysis of water, sanitation, and hygiene in health facilities in seven countries of the Region: Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru.
 - f) AIDIS contributions to thematic forums on water and sanitation initiatives during COVID-19. The national chapters of AIDIS periodically report on the situation in their countries. In Mexico, a representative of the organization participated as a speaker at the AIDIS Regional Congress, which addressed the subject of water, sanitation, and hygiene and their relation to COVID-19.
 - g) A draft project for solid waste management, prepared with the PAHO advisor on environmental determinants for Central America.

13. Due to the pandemic, other planned activities could not be held during the year, in particular those that required on-site participation. They included the AIDIS Inter-American Congress (scheduled to take place in Argentina in November 2020) and the 1st Inter-American Congress on Risk Management (scheduled for June 2020 in Guatemala). Likewise, it was not possible to create technical groups in the six countries of the Amazon and the Chaco region of South America.

Inter-American Society of Cardiology

14. In 2020, the Inter-American Society of Cardiology (SIAC) carried out actions to expand the HEARTS initiative, studies, training activities, and awareness campaigns:
- a) SIAC continues to support the HEARTS initiative in Latin America. HEARTS is already established in nine countries with the collaboration and participation of national societies of cardiology and SIAC experts. This year, HEARTS was established in two Mexican states, Chiapas and Sonora, as a step toward covering the entire country.
 - b) The CorCOVID LATAM study is an observational, descriptive, analytic study whose goal is to map the situation of patients with cardiometabolic disorders but without signs of COVID-19 infection. In 2020, the situation was assessed in 13 Latin American countries through 2,416 surveys in a 31-day period, revealing psychological impact, barriers to access to medicines, and abandonment of drug treatments. The study design has been published in CJC Open, a journal of the

¹ TrackFin (Tracking Financing to WASH) is a methodology to identify and track financing of the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector at the national or subnational level in a consistent and comparable manner. TrackFin produces WASH accounts that can be used to conduct national benchmarking and cross-country comparisons and to provide an evidence base to better plan, finance, manage, and monitor WASH services and systems.

- Canadian Cardiovascular Society, and its results have been sent to various scientific media.
- c) Under the slogan “In the Americas, cardiovascular prevention is not an option; it is an obligation,” cardiometabolic prevention units were formed. In each unit a multidisciplinary team works in an integrated manner to optimize diagnosis and increase control over cardiometabolic risk factors. More than 400 people from several Latin American countries registered to be part of an international network with the capacity to exchange information, research, and updates.
 - d) Campaigns were also conducted in social networks to coincide with World Hypertension Day and World Heart Day. The 2020 World Hypertension Day campaign positioned the hashtag #CuidatupresiónSIAC as a trending topic in several countries in the Region, and the hashtag was viewed 6,321,792 times by 2,250,269 unique users. The 2020 World Heart Day campaign focused on awareness about immunization, with five videos produced and disseminated in September. An intense campaign was carried out in social networks and communications media, using the hashtag #CorazonSIAC. On 29 September, a webinar was held with participation from experts in Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Spain, and Venezuela, drawing more than 2,600 attendees through the website and 1,500 on YouTube.

Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries

15. In 2020, the Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (ALIFAR) carried out the following actions in accordance with the agreed work plan:
- a) ALIFAR has lent technical and scientific support to regional and global public consultations organized by PAHO and WHO on documents related to drug quality, safety, and efficacy, including drugs of biological origin, as well as documents related to the recognition of regulatory decisions and their implications for timely access to products.
 - b) ALIFAR has helped expand regional knowledge about changes to health and intellectual property regulations effected by relevant authorities in the Latin American countries associated with ALIFAR, as well as knowledge of the standards and technical regulations governing registry and marketing authorization for biotechnological and chemically synthesized drugs. In addition, and within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, activities during the year included holding 10 virtual meetings on subjects related to public health and the pandemic, with the participation of professionals from research centers, companies, and governments in the countries.
 - c) During 2020, ALIFAR participated in a virtual meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization (PANDRH), 14 February, and a consultation convened by the PANDRH Secretariat, 10 February. ALIFAR also participated in three meetings of the PAHO Governing Bodies: *a)* 166th Session of the Executive Committee, 22-23 June; *b)* 58th Directing

Council, 28-29 September; and c) 167th Session of the Executive Committee, 30 September.

Latin American and Caribbean Women’s Health Network

16. In accordance with its plan for collaboration with PAHO for the period 2019-2021, the Latin American and Caribbean Women’s Health Network (LACWHN) carried out the following activities:

- a) It supported implementation of the Plan of Action for Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescents’ Health 2018-2030 (Document CD56/8, Rev.1) by developing a webinar on women’s health in the context of COVID-19. PAHO disseminated LACWHN technical notes, pamphlets, and invitations on women’s health and gender equality in health in the framework of Beijing +20.
- b) As part of celebrating and raising awareness about women’s health on special dates, LACWHN produced a video with PAHO promoting a commitment to greater gender equality in health.
- c) In the context of monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, LACWHN and PAHO held a cycle of four sessions with female experts in interview format, broadcast over Facebook Live. The subjects addressed were gender and the pandemic; comprehensive women’s health; the role of health services and responses for women; and violence against women in the context of COVID-19. LACWHN coordinated the sessions and ensured broad dissemination in the Region of the Americas, reaching over 48,000 people on Facebook Live. Finally, PAHO disseminated materials and information on women and the pandemic, including gender considerations and the specific needs of women.

Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry

17. The Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) works with PAHO to strengthen the competencies of clinical laboratories in the Region of the Americas. In 2020, some of the on-site activities originally included in the work plan between COLABIOCLI and PAHO had to be modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following activities did take place:

- a) Development of COLABIOCLI’s strategic plan for 2020-2022. This made it possible to program specific activities aimed at promoting stronger national regulations and regulatory frameworks, strengthening the role of clinical laboratory professionals within health teams, developing continuous training programs, and strengthening relations with universities and scientific institutions.
- b) Preparation of a regulation on the granting of fellowships under the collaboration line “Training program to strengthen professional competencies, with emphasis on managerial education and quality management.” Three annual fellowships were created to enable young professionals to take up internships in health institutions

- and/or laboratories. Seventeen fellowships were arranged for participation in virtual diploma programs and international courses, benefiting professionals from different countries. Also, a program of nine panel discussions on subjects of interest was held, with the participation of specialists from different countries.
- c) A virtual training on quality management and good laboratory practices for university professors, and a workshop for professors specialized in quality management and good laboratory practices, both part of the three-year work plan. The activities of the virtual workshop were made permanent in order to train university educators and share good teaching practices. In 2020, 168 instructors from 60 universities participated. The educators were trained to implement the course entitled “Quality Management and Good Laboratory Practices,” promoting inclusion of the subject in bachelor’s and master’s level curricula. Additionally, a survey was conducted with all universities in the Region that train laboratory clinicians.

March of Dimes

18. In 2020, March of Dimes and PAHO collaborated on several activities:
- a) In February 2020, PAHO published a technical report titled “Present and Future of Birth Defects Surveillance in the Americas,” addressing a key public health problem in the Region. March of Dimes and PAHO have been working together to raise awareness of the burden of birth defects and the importance of increasing surveillance of birth defects in the Americas.
- b) Also in February, the 9th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World (ICBD) was organized by March of Dimes. PAHO served on the Sustaining Advisory Committee and participated in the pre-conference surveillance workshop jointly organized by March of Dimes, the CDC, WHO, PAHO, and the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO). Several sessions at the ICBD 2020 included discussions of experiences from Latin America and the Caribbean. PAHO also presented in one of the plenaries and chaired a plenary and a simultaneous symposium.
- c) In addition, March of Dimes and PAHO have been working to improve prevention and care related to premature birth. Toward this end, PAHO held a seminar in October 2020 on the 50th anniversary of the Latin American Center for Perinatology, Women’s and Reproductive Health (CLAP), at which March of Dimes presented on the global burden of premature birth.

Mundo Sano Foundation

19. During 2020, the Mundo Sano Foundation (FMS) participated in a number of activities aimed at promotion and implementation of the PAHO Framework for Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B, and Chagas (EMTCT Plus):

- a) FMS continued to implement actions within the framework of the EMTCT Plus strategy, in alignment with PAHO recommendations, within the possibilities allowed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b) FMS participated in a virtual seminar organized with the United Nations in Argentina, with the participation of PAHO: “The Importance of Addressing a Communicable Disease in the COVID-19 Context: Chagas and Pregnancy, the Challenge of Protecting the New Generations.”
- c) FMS launched the Chagas Network (Red Atendiendo Chagas), a virtual platform where health professionals committed to providing access to diagnosis and treatment of Chagas disease can meet and share information.
- d) FMS participated in the presentation of a proposal to establish an Ibero-American program on congenital Chagas disease to member countries of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB). The program, led by SEGIB, is called “No Baby with Chagas: The Road toward New Generations Free of Chagas Disease.”
- e) FMS participated in the 17th Annual Meeting and 1st Virtual Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission of the Andean Subregional Initiative for Prevention, Control, and Treatment of Chagas Disease, and in the meeting on integrated serological surveillance of communicable diseases through the multiplex assay (multiplex initiative) in the Region of the Americas, held in Cuernavaca, Mexico.
- f) FMS participated in four PAHO webinars: “Control of *Aedes aegypti* in a Scenario of Simultaneous COVID-19 Transmission”; “The COVID-19 Pandemic: Current and Possible Future Scenarios in America and Argentina”; “Evidence, Ethics, and Emergency Use of Unproven Interventions against COVID-19”; and “Epidemiology and Inequalities in Brazil: The EpiCOVID19 Study.”
- g) FMS participated in the 21st Annual Meeting and 1st Virtual Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission of the Initiative of the Central American Countries and Mexico (IPCAM) for the interruption of vector-borne and transfusion transmission of, and care for, Chagas disease, held in October 2020.

Pan-American Federation of Associations of Medical Schools

20. In 2020, the Pan-American Federation of Associations of Medical Schools (PAFAMS) held several activities in accordance with its established work plan for collaboration with PAHO:

- a) In response to the closing of medical schools in February and March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, PAFAMS organized four webinars where participants could hear about the actions carried out in the different PAFAMS member countries with a view to sharing ideas and strengthening actions.
- b) Under the Primary Health Care (PHC) project, working methods and general objectives have been established, publications shared, and groundwork laid to move

toward completion of the project by March 2022. It is due to be presented at the Pan American Congress on Medical Education in Asunción, Paraguay.

Pan American Federation of Nursing Professionals

21. In accordance with the work plan for collaboration between the Pan American Federation of Nursing Professionals (FEPPEN) and PAHO, the following activities were held in 2020:

- a) FEPPEN meeting to discuss training for human resources in nursing and the qualifications resulting from such training. The efforts of FEPPEN and PAHO are focused on training nurses with appropriate qualifications in institutions that are accredited and regulated by the ministries of education of the countries of Latin America. This meeting resulted in better understanding of the situation and of how to recommend a curriculum that meets the complex demand for health care at all levels.
- b) 8th TRIAD Meeting of WHO, the International Council of Nurses, and the International Confederation of Midwives (WHO-ICN-ICM). The objective of this event was to hold a global-level discussion of policies on nursing education, employment, and practices. The regional situation and country experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed; agreement was reached on issues related to the WHO global strategic directions for strengthening nursing and midwifery; and country initiatives were presented with regard to the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. FEPPEN and PAHO participated in the event, convened by the International Council of Nurses and WHO, and PAHO made a presentation on the situation of nursing in the Region of the Americas.
- c) Participation in the VII Ibero-American Conference on Nursing, organized by Spanish General Council of Nursing. The Spanish General Council of Nursing works collaboratively with FEPPEN to offer courses for continuing education of professionals, including courses in leadership, school health, patient safety, and primary health care.
- d) The 2020 FEPPEN Congress and Convention, which was scheduled to be held in September 2020 in Asunción, Paraguay, was postponed until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

United States Pharmacopeial Convention

22. During 2020, and building on previous accomplishments, PAHO and the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) collaborated to further strengthen the Region's regulatory capacities to ensure the availability of quality-assured medical products and promptly respond to the challenges posed by poor-quality medicines. Several key issues were addressed within the framework of the Caribbean Regulatory System (CRS), including the Medicines Quality Control and Surveillance Department of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). This collaboration has enabled the development of

guidance documents on regulatory inspections and post-market surveillance of medical products.

23. USP also collaborated with PAHO, WHO, and CLAP on a project to improve understanding of issues related to the quality and stability of injected oxytocin—first drug of choice to prevent postpartum hemorrhage—at selected hospitals in the Region. USP has shared its expertise in performing this type of study, contributing in particular to the development of the sampling and testing sections of the protocol. Study implementation was programmed for 2020 but is now on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

24. In the framework of the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization (PANDRH), USP and PAHO have exchanged and disseminated information on resources available to support countries' responses to the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

World Association for Sexual Health

25. The COVID-19 pandemic greatly curtailed the planned collaboration of the World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) and PAHO for 2020, shifting most activities to online and virtual approaches.

26. WAS carried out a webinar designed for the Latin American audience, “The Sexual Health Chapter in the ICD 11: Implications for Providers of Mental and Sexual Health Care,” which took place in November 2020. Two virtual preparatory meetings were organized in October. The webinar was widely advertised through WAS and PAHO channels, which included social media plus a list of interested stakeholders. This activity was also coordinated with WHO and laid the groundwork for activities in 2021, which will feature major involvement by PAHO in the 25th Congress of the World Association for Sexual Health, to be held in September in Cape Town, South Africa.

World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities

27. During 2020, the World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities (WRI) carried out the following activities in accordance with the agreed work plan between WRI and PAHO:

- a) Knowledge sharing on health and road safety. Several consultations were held in Brazil for the purpose of exchanging expertise in areas of public health related to road safety, such as road infrastructure design, speed, and physical activity.
- b) Development, implementation, and strengthening of national strategies on road safety. WRI participated in a series of workshops held by PAHO in Brasilia. WRI provided important inputs into a document that resulted from the workshops, titled *Agenda de movilidad sostenible y salud: Seguridad vial, calidad del aire y actividad*

física. The document will impact policy at the national level by improving the capacity of health sector officials.

- c) Global data dissemination on health and road safety. PAHO published and launched a report, “Status of Road Safety in the Region of the Americas,” containing the latest road safety statistics from countries in the Region. WRI participated as a speaker at the launch event, providing comments and feedback about the publication.
- d) Intergovernmental collaboration on road safety. PAHO and WRI participated in the Fifth United Nations Global Road Safety Week, during which WRI engaged in discussions on how society can generate demands for strong road safety leadership.
- e) Intergovernmental collaboration and knowledge sharing on road safety. WRI engaged PAHO during the early development stages of the Vision Zero Challenge in early and mid-2019. PAHO supported with selecting the competition’s winning cities. In 2020, PAHO participated in the Vision Zero Challenge webinar series. This series helped improve the training of officials in participating cities, with a view to achieving a long-term reduction in traffic fatalities in the Latin American region.

Annex D**SCHEDULE OF SPBA REVIEWS OF NON-STATE ACTORS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH PAHO**

(as of 1 January 2021)

Name (English)	Name (Spanish)	Date Admitted	Last Reviewed	Scheduled to be Reviewed
Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)	Action on Smoking and Health	2018		2021
American Heart Association	Asociación Estadounidense del Corazón	2020		2023
American Public Health Association (APHA)	Asociación Estadounidense de Salud Pública	2013	2020	2023
American Society for Microbiology (ASM)	Sociedad Estadounidense de Microbiología	2001	2020	2023
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)	Asociación Americana del Habla, Lenguaje y Audición	2014	2018	2021
Basic Health International	Basic Health International	2020		2023
Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative - Latin America (DNDi)	Iniciativa Medicamentos para Enfermedades Olvidadas - América Latina	2018		2021
Framework Convention Alliance (FCA)	Alianza para el Convenio Marco	2015	2018	2021
Global Oncology	Global Oncology	2020		2023
Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC)	Coalición Caribe Saludable	2012	2019	2022
Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering	Asociación Interamericana de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ambiental (AIDIS)	1995	2020	2023
InterAmerican Heart Foundation (IAHF)	Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón (FIC)	2002	2018	2021
Inter-American Society of Cardiology (IASC)	Sociedad Interamericana de Cardiología (SIAC)	2012	2019	2022
Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN)	Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe (RSMLAC)	2004	2019	2022

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Name (English)	Name (Spanish)	Date Admitted	Last Reviewed	Scheduled to be Reviewed
Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries	Asociación Latinoamericana de Industrias Farmacéuticas (ALIFAR)	2000	2019	2022
Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry	Confederación Latinoamericana de Bioquímica Clínica (COLABIOCLI)	1988	2019	2022
Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry	Federación Latinoamericana de la Industria Farmacéutica (FIFARMA)	1979	2018	2021
Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension	Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nefrología e Hipertensión (SLANH)	2015	2018	2021
March of Dimes	March of Dimes	2001	2020	2023
Mundo Sano Foundation	Fundación Mundo Sano	2016	2019	2022
National Alliance for Hispanic Health (NAHH)	Alianza Nacional para la Salud Hispana	1996	2018	2021
Pan-American Federation of Associations of Medical Schools (PAFAMS)	Federación Panamericana de Asociaciones de Facultades y Escuelas de Medicina (FEPAFEM)	1965	2020	2023
Pan American Federation of Nursing Professionals	Federación Panamericana de Profesionales de Enfermería (FEPPEN)	1988	2020	2023
Sabin Vaccine Institute	Instituto de Vacunas Sabin	2011	2018	2021
United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP)	Convención de la Farmacopea de Estados Unidos	1997	2020	2023
World Association for Sexual Health (WAS)	Asociación Mundial para la Salud Sexual	2001	2020	2023
World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities	Centro Ross para Ciudades Sustentables del Instituto de Recursos Mundiales	2010	2019	2022
