

**16th SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON PROGRAM, BUDGET, AND ADMINISTRATION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Virtual Session, 23-25 March 2022

Provisional Agenda Item 3.4

SPBA16/5
24 January 2022
Original: English

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 (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.
 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 Subcommittee, 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 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 Subcommittee is invited to consider the application for admission into official relations from one non-State actor and to review the collaboration with seven 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 Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI), the Bureau considered that the applicant organization meets the requirements and is therefore presented for consideration by the Executive Committee through the Subcommittee.

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 28 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. In 2022, seven entities are up for renewal: Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC), Inter-American Society of Cardiology (SIAC, for its acronym in Spanish), Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (ALIFAR, for its acronym in Spanish), Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN, for its acronym in Spanish), Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI, for its acronym in Spanish), Mundo Sano Foundation, and World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities (WRI).

10. As a result of its review, the Bureau recommends that the Executive Committee:
 - a) Continue official relations with the following six non-State actors: HCC, SIAC, ALIFAR, COLABIOCLI, Mundo Sano, and WRI;
 - b) Discontinue official relations with the following non-State actor: Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN). Although joint activities have been conducted in the past, an agreed plan of work has not been identified. After discussion with the entity it was agreed that LACWHN would not submit an application for renewal of official relations with PAHO. Future opportunities for engagement outside of official relations will be explored with LACWHN in light of the valuable work it carries out in the Region.
11. Detailed supplementary background documents on each non-State actor mentioned above will be provided separately for consideration by the Subcommittee.
12. Annex B provides information on PAHO collaboration with the six entities that are recommended 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 Subcommittee is invited to consider recommending that the Executive Committee:
 - a) admit one new non-State actor into official relations with PAHO, the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI);
 - b) commend the following six 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: Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC), Inter-American Society of Cardiology (SIAC), Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (ALIFAR), Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI), Mundo Sano, and World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities (WRI); and
 - c) discontinue official relations with the following non-State actor: Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN).

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.

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute

1. The Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI), established in 1969, is a globally recognized not-for-profit standards development organization whose mission is to develop clinical and laboratory practices and promote their use worldwide. The Institute's vision is to set the standard in laboratory medicine for a healthier world.
 2. CLSI generates standards and guidelines, provides teaching aids, and offers direct technical assistance with education and training in the major disciplines of clinical laboratory medicine. These include automation and informatics, clinical chemistry and toxicology, general laboratory, hematology, immunology and ligand assay, method evaluation, microbiology, molecular diagnostics, newborn screening, point-of-care testing, quality management systems, and veterinary medicine.
 3. CLSI was a PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center until 2020, when it no longer qualified for eligibility as it is not an academic institution. Nonetheless, it maintains close collaboration with PAHO and has applied for official relations status.
 4. Over the past two years, the following activities have been carried out jointly by CLSI and PAHO:
 - a) PAHO has participated in meetings of the CLSI Subcommittee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) for the determination of antimicrobial breakpoints for specific pathogens. The Subcommittee on AST provides useful information to laboratories, enabling them to advise clinicians on the selection of appropriate antimicrobial therapy. PAHO participates in at least two annual meetings of the CLSI's subcommittees and in ad hoc discussions.
 - b) PAHO participated in meetings of the CLSI Expert Panel on Microbiology, which provides technical expertise in microbiology.
 - c) PAHO, through the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ReLAVRA), has facilitated the use of surveillance data for the development of CLSI laboratory standards and breakpoints for antimicrobial susceptibility testing. For example, the standard for *Haemophilus influenzae* is currently in development with the participation of the National Institute of Health of Colombia. PAHO also participated in the development of azithromycin breakpoints in *Salmonella spp.* and *Shigella spp.*, making available routine surveillance data produced in the Region.
-

- d) During 2021, CLSI conducted direct and indirect training assistance in Caribbean countries with a view to strengthening the capacities of laboratory personnel in maintaining a quality management system to enable national laboratories to seek accreditation to the ISO 15189 standard. CLSI continues to offer public health laboratories technical assistance to improve laboratory operations and surveillance methodologies to respond to outbreaks quickly and appropriately.
5. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2022-2024) under the work plan for collaboration between CLSI and PAHO:
- a) Strengthen the capacities of national laboratories in the Region of the Americas to monitor and mitigate the spread of antimicrobial resistance. This includes the development of materials and resources written for the PAHO community; strengthening of national policies and guidelines; training and workshops; and strengthening of surveillance infrastructure.
 - b) Identify new standards, guidelines, and documents to be developed based on Latin American epidemiology.

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 six non-State actors.

Healthy Caribbean Coalition

1. Formed in 2008, the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) is a registered not-for-profit organization with a membership of over 100 civil society organizations (CSOs). HCC works closely with regional and international partners, government, the business community, academia, and civil society to develop and implement plans for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) among the Caribbean people.
 2. Over the past three years, the following activities were carried out under the work plan for collaboration between HCC and PAHO:
 - a) Capacity building to enable civil society, working in partnership with key stakeholders, to deliver high-quality cervical cancer education, screening, and advocacy for the establishment or scaling up of national human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programs.
 - b) Strengthening of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) National NCD Commissions through annual virtual meetings of the CARICOM Regional Chairs held between 2019 and 2021, along with periodic updating of the NCD portal.
 - c) Technical cooperation to analyze the status of existing National NCD Commissions in the Caribbean and make recommendations to strengthen their capacities. Entry points were identified for efforts to establish and/or strengthen tobacco control coordinating mechanisms in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), Article 5.2.a.
 - d) Continued implementation of the HCC's civil society action plan for preventing childhood obesity in the Caribbean. HCC advocated for the introduction of healthy school policies by helping to develop a model policy for regulating the availability of unhealthy foods and beverages in school settings and supporting the dissemination of guidance.
 - e) Advocacy for the introduction of mandatory front-of-package warning labeling (FOPWL) in the Caribbean. Technical support was provided through the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) consultation process, advocacy, communication activities, co-hosting webinars, and co-development of material. Support was also provided for the development of the HCC web page on FOPWL.
-

- f) Support for HCC’s work to counter industry interference in the FOPWL process, including identifying, managing, and mitigating conflicts of interests.
 - g) Annual Caribbean Alcohol Reduction Days in 2019, 2020, and 2021. Joint activities included dedicated web pages, infographics, and webinars featuring the PAHO advisor on alcohol reduction.
3. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2022-2024) under the collaborative work plan between HCC and PAHO:
- a) Provide support to strengthen CARICOM National NCD Commissions through networking, capacity building, and informal technical assistance in support of HCC’s Transformative New NCD Agenda.
 - b) Build capacity of CSOs, the public sector, and selected private sector actors (in non-health-harming industries) to identify, prevent, manage, and mitigate conflicts of interests in NCD prevention, control policy, and programming in support of HCC’s Transformative New NCD Agenda.
 - c) Collaborate with regional partners through mechanisms such as the Caribbean Public Health Law Forum and the Law and Health Research Unit at the University of the West Indies aimed at increasing legal capacity in the Region to facilitate the implementation of NCD policies.
 - d) In support of the WHO Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer and HCC’s Transformative New NCD Agenda, advocate for high-quality cervical cancer education, screening, and referral, and for HPV vaccination programs targeting women in hard-to-reach communities.
 - e) Advocate for healthy food environments through the implementation of policies, including mandatory front-of-package nutrition warning labeling, healthy school policies, fiscal policies to encourage consumption of healthy foods, and regulation of marketing of unhealthy foods to children.
 - f) Continue to host the annual Caribbean Alcohol Reduction Day to build awareness among the public and policymakers around the harmful effects of alcohol use. The event is organized in partnership with PAHO, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), and other key stakeholders.

Inter-American Society of Cardiology

4. The Inter-American Society of Cardiology (SIAC) is a civic association made up of the national cardiology societies of the countries of the Americas and the Spanish Society of Cardiology. SIAC was founded in 1944 with a mission to promote progress in the field of cardiology as well as interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration for cardiovascular health care in the community.

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

- a) The HEARTS in the Americas initiative continued to be promoted through the HEARTS regional workshop, held in conjunction with the Interamerican Congress of Cardiology in 2019. The event drew more than 80 recognized experts from all cardiology societies of the Region, achieving the inclusion of more countries in the initiative.
- b) A meeting was held of regional leaders of scientific societies, foundations, academic institutions, patient groups, and responsible authorities of health ministries committed to policies for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Chagas disease among vulnerable populations. This resulted in the publication of an article in the Global Heart journal.
- c) SIAC carried out awareness campaigns on World Hypertension Day, World Heart Day, and World Diabetes Day with the support of PAHO, the World Heart Federation, and the Latin American Society of Hypertension (LASH).
- d) Training activities were held in cardiometabolic prevention units, with comprehensive efforts to optimize the diagnosis and control of cardiometabolic risk factors. This contributed to the dissemination of WHO guidelines on hypertension and the implementation of the HEARTS in the Americas initiative.
- e) Within the framework of the NET-Heart project, research on neglected diseases and the heart was carried out and published in leading scientific journals.

6. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2022-2024) under the collaborative work plan between PAHO and SIAC:

- a) Support the implementation of the HEARTS initiative in Latin American cardiology societies and the establishment of partnerships with the ministry of health of each country in the Region in order to strengthen the management of cardiovascular risk factors in primary health care settings.
- b) Continue PAHO participation in technical meetings of the HEARTS initiative within the framework of the Interamerican Congress of Cardiology in order to strengthen technical cooperation, establish spaces for discussion, and contribute to innovative developments in the implementation of policies for the control of cardiovascular diseases and their risk factors.
- c) Promote dissemination and analysis of the new WHO guidelines on hypertension by including this topic in various scientific and technical sessions in Latin America. Create a roadmap with concrete actions that facilitate full implementation of the WHO guidelines, making the control of hypertension a health priority.
- d) Continue promoting the agenda of cardiovascular health priorities within the framework of the “25 by 25” target (reduce mortality from cardiovascular diseases by 25% by 2025) in all possible technical areas, as has been done since 2012.

- e) Continue campaigns on World Hypertension Day, World Heart Day, and World Diabetes Day, with the support of PAHO and the World Heart Federation, to raise public awareness of cardiovascular prevention measures.

Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries

7. The Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (ALIFAR), founded in 1980, is an international nonprofit association that brings together the national pharmaceutical industries of Latin American countries. Its priority objectives are to support and strengthen these national industries and to promote mutual interests at the subregional, regional, and international levels.

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

- a) Technical and scientific support for regional and global public consultations organized by PAHO and WHO. ALIFAR representatives participated as panelists in regulatory update meetings, sharing experiences on alternative models for the clinical evaluation of new COVID-19 vaccines.
- b) Exchange of knowledge and experiences at the regional level in order to share good practices in public policymaking, identify items for the regional cooperation agenda, and discuss extended producer responsibility.
- c) Monitoring and evaluation through virtual meetings with professionals from research centers, companies, national governments, and PAHO, with broad participation of the governing bodies of associations affiliated with ALIFAR, on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on public health in the countries and the measures adopted to alleviate the impact on the population.
- d) Technical cooperation in the review of progress reports on projects of the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization (PANDRH), and participation and formulation of suggestions at meetings of the PANDRH Steering Committee.
- e) Revision of several modules of a virtual course on the health regulation of biological and biotechnological products.
- f) Exchange of information with PAHO on registration and marketing authorization of medicines, good manufacturing practices, bioavailability and bioequivalence, intellectual property, marketing of medicines, falsification of medicines, and other topics of interest to the parties.

9. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2022-2024) under the collaborative work plan between ALIFAR and PAHO:

- a) Facilitate participation of experts from ALIFAR's national associations in regional and global activities and in scientific and regulatory issues involving medicines, contributing to the exchange of knowledge and experiences at the regional level.

- b) Support and participate in PANDRH activities related to the network’s priority projects and preparation of its strategic development plan for the period 2021-2026. An ALIFAR official will serve as a member of the PANDRH Steering Committee.
- c) Provide technical and scientific support for regional and global public consultations organized by PAHO and WHO on issues of quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines and other health technologies.
- d) Participate and provide technical collaboration on workshops, seminars, and development of materials, strengthening regional coordination with relevant institutions related to the health, science, technology, and industrial sectors.
- e) Participate and provide technical collaboration and exchange of experiences in meetings and other activities convened within the framework of implementation of PAHO Resolution CD59.R3, Increasing Production Capacity for Essential Medicines and Health Technologies.

Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry

10. Founded in 1968, the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) is a private, international, nonprofit, scientific, academic, and trade association, which brings together national entities of professionals in clinical biochemistry and similar professions in Latin America. It works to continuously improve ethical, scientific, technical, and economic aspects of the profession in order to best serve individuals and society.

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

- a) Training program to strengthen professional competencies, with emphasis on managerial education, quality management, and exchange of good practices.
- b) Census of laboratories to help improve knowledge about the situation of clinical laboratories in Latin America.
- c) Strengthening of external quality assessment programs in Latin America through an agreement with Brazil’s National Quality Control Program (PNCQ) to provide basic external quality assessment programs for each country, focusing on public and private laboratories in COLABIOCLI member countries.
- d) Development of editions of the “Course on Quality Management and Good Practices for Laboratories” that are adapted to the requirements of the PAHO programs on arbovirus surveillance, influenza laboratories, and others.
- e) Technical advice on quality management for national reference laboratories, with preparation of instructional and training materials.
- f) Development of a training course, “Leadership of Young Professionals in Clinical Laboratories: A Post-Pandemic Challenge.”

g) Organization of conversations between laboratory professionals and managers on the role of clinical laboratories in public health and health emergencies.

12. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2022-2024) under the collaborative work plan between COLABIOCLI and PAHO:

a) Continue the training program in quality management and exchange of good practices through the organization of two online courses, using the “Course on Quality Management and Good Practices for Laboratories,” Third Edition, published by PAHO in 2016.

b) Carry out a survey of national professional certification and recertification systems, and systematize information on current professional certification programs in the countries of the Region.

c) Continue helping to strengthen external quality assessment programs in Latin America through the distribution of basic external quality assessment programs for each country, focusing on public and private laboratories in COLABIOCLI member countries and providing advice to countries implementing these programs. Training will also be provided for representatives of member countries in the organization and management of external quality assessment programs.

d) Continue the ongoing workshop for university professors from the Region on topics related to professional training for clinical laboratories, quality management, biosecurity in the laboratory, public health, and risk management in situations of epidemiological impact.

e) Hold 12 discussions (four per year) on the role of clinical laboratories in public health and health emergencies. The discussions will be available in the repository on the COLABIOCLI website.

f) Carry out a survey of clinical laboratory accreditation systems in the countries of the Region and prepare a report aimed at strengthening laboratory accreditation systems, quality accreditation, and biosecurity and waste treatment requirements.

g) Offer three leadership courses for young professionals, with emphasis on laboratory management, participation in interdisciplinary teams, and public health.

Mundo Sano Foundation

13. The Mundo Sano Foundation is a family foundation established in 1993 that aims to promote research, technological innovation, and health education in formal and informal areas in order to improve people’s quality of life and well-being. Its activities relate to the medical, agricultural, biological, physical, chemical, and natural sciences. Its main lines of work include developing new programs for interventions aimed at tackling various neglected infectious diseases such as Chagas, soil-transmitted helminth infections, leishmaniasis, hydatidosis, and mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, and Zika.

14. Over the past three years, the following activities were carried out under the work plan for collaboration between Mundo Sano and PAHO:
- a) Participation and collaboration around activities carried out within the framework of subregional meetings organized by PAHO. These include the meeting on using the multiplex bead assay for integrated serological surveillance of communicable diseases in the Region of the Americas (Mexico, March 2020); the Andean Subregional Initiative for Prevention, Control, and Treatment of Chagas Disease (August 2020); the Initiative of the Countries of Central America and Mexico for the Control of Vector-borne and Transfusional Transmission and Medical Care for Chagas Disease (October 2020); and the Initiative of Amazon Countries for the Surveillance and Control of Chagas Disease (May 2021).
 - b) Launch of the “No Baby with Chagas” campaign in 2019 to give visibility to the vertical transmission of Chagas.
 - c) Participation in the technical meeting and subsequent approval of the initiative “No Baby with Chagas: The Road toward New Generations Free of Chagas Disease” at the XXVII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (Andorra, 2021), organized by the Ibero-American General Secretariat.
 - d) Organization of events and symposiums, including the XIX International Symposium on Neglected Diseases (2021); the second “Rethinking Chagas Workshop: Reshaping the Agenda for Chagas Disease in the United States” (with the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, 2021); and a virtual seminar on “Neglected Diseases in the Context of COVID-19,” organized jointly with the United Nations in Argentina with the participation of the PAHO/WHO Representative Office in Argentina (July 2020).
 - e) Publication of the second “Updates on Chagas Disease in the U.S.,” an e-newsletter in collaboration with Harvard University.
 - f) Development of an educational project for the prevention of mosquito-borne diseases, Prevention in Action: Educational Resources for a Healthy World. It includes physical and digital material and features educational talks for school-age children, considering school as a space to promote health education.
 - g) Coordinated work with the health ministries of the provinces of Santiago del Estero and Chaco, Argentina, to launch the strategy for Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B, and Chagas (EMTCT Plus) in 2019. In addition, a training workshop on the EMTCT Plus strategy was held for health personnel at a site in the province of Buenos Aires.
 - h) Participation in a project to study the prevalence of *Trypanosoma cruzi* infection in the Gran Chaco area of Bolivia and validation of alternative methodologies for the diagnosis of Chagas disease in chronic and congenital patients. Other partners included the Foundation for Applied Science and Studies for Health and

Environmental Development (CEADES) and the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGLOBAL).

- i) Development of a national map of parasite infection risk in Argentina, together with the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), the National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE), the Gulich Institute, and the National University of Córdoba. The map was published in 2020.
- j) Project on “Partnerships for the Elimination of Chagas Disease as a Public Health Problem in Central America and Mexico.” For this project Mundo Sano partnered with San Carlos University in Guatemala, International Development Research Centre of Canada, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, health area of Jutiapa municipality, Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance of Guatemala, Association for Research and Social Studies (ASIES) in Guatemala, and PAHO. The entomological information collected in this project was made available for the process of certifying the elimination of Chagas caused by *Rhodnius prolixus* in Guatemala.
- k) Support was provided to national health authorities and local academic institutions in the preparation of Guidelines for the Surveillance and Control of *Triatoma dimidiata* in Guatemala.

15. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2022-2024) under the collaborative work plan between Mundo Sano and PAHO:

- a) Implement programs for vector surveillance and control and for access to etiological diagnosis and treatment in three provinces of Argentina (Santiago del Estero, Chaco, and San Juan). Develop tools to assist vector surveillance and control actions at the local level in Argentina in line with PAHO’s Integrated Management Strategy for Arboviral Disease Prevention and Control in the Americas.
- b) Support efforts to strengthen capacities in the surveillance and control of triatomines for the elimination of domestic vector-borne transmission in Guatemala.
- c) Implement the EMTCT Plus framework in the South American Chaco (Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay).
- d) Implement a research project, “Field Validation of Trypanosoma cruzi-LAMP: A Molecular Point-of-Care Test for the Control of Congenital Chagas Disease.” This project seeks to stimulate and facilitate the implementation of actions for access to the diagnosis and treatment of Chagas disease in the Region of the Americas.
- e) Implement, using digital media, the project “Prevention in Action: Educational Resources for a Healthy World,” for the prevention of mosquito-borne diseases.

- f) Collaborate with the Ministry of Health of Argentina on the development of a project to strengthen the national leprosy program to achieve the interruption of transmission in Argentina.
- g) Support development of tools for prevalence mapping and study of soil-transmitted parasites and their relationship with environmental and social variables.

World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities

16. The World Resources Institute (WRI) is a global nonprofit organization working with leaders in government, business, and civil society to research, design, and carry out practical solutions that simultaneously improve people’s lives and ensure nature can thrive. WRI’s mission is to move human society to live in ways that protect Earth’s environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of current and future generations. WRI envisions an equitable and prosperous planet driven by the wise management of natural resources.

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

- a) Organization of meetings, consultations and knowledge exchange in the areas of public health related to road safety, such as road infrastructure design, speed, and physical activity. These consultations led to the development of capacity-building sessions on road infrastructure designed for the Ministry of Health in Brazil.
- b) Participation in a series of workshops organized by PAHO in Brasilia. WRI provided inputs into a document that resulted from the workshops, titled Agenda on Sustainable Mobility and Health: Road Safety, Air Quality and Physical Activity (in Spanish). After the event, WRI and PAHO continued to follow up on takeaways from the workshops and the outcome document.
- c) Participation in the launch of the report Status of Road Safety in the Region of the Americas, published by PAHO in 2019. As one of the presenters, WRI provided comments and feedback on the report.
- d) Participation and contribution to the discussion on how society can generate demands for strong leadership for road safety during the Fifth UN Global Road Safety Week.
- e) Coordination of WRI’s Vision Zero Challenge (VZC). PAHO participated during the early development stages and as one of the jurors selecting the Challenge’s winning cities. PAHO had a key role in the ongoing VZC activities and participated in a panel of experts in the webinar “Overcoming Barriers to the Safe System,” in which officials from all 24 participating cities took part.
- f) Participation in the Third Ministerial Conference on Road Safety hosted by the Government of Sweden and co-hosted by WHO in 2020. The conference contributed to discussions leading to the Stockholm Declaration, which calls for a new global target to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030.

- g) A capacity-building webinar on the safe-systems approach to road safety in the Region of the Americas. Hosted by WRI, PAHO, and WHO in December 2020, the trainings covered two topics: applying safe systems thinking to road safety, and foundations for road safety legislation.

18. The following activities are proposed for the next three years (2022-2024) under the collaborative work plan between WRI and PAHO:

- a) Increase collaboration in the VZC activities, including capacity-building sessions for policymakers in the Region of the Americas.
- b) Organize webinars, workshops, and capacity-building sessions that will include the following topics: national and city-level strategies on road safety; safe systems; promotion of biking and physical activity, and their benefits in the preventing NCDs; data systems for road safety; speed management and enforcement; and road safety for children.
- c) Continue supporting efforts to improve and leverage data systems for road safety. Reliable and accurate georeferenced data is needed to achieve key objectives, including identification of risk factors, development of targeted interventions, target setting, and impact evaluation of the interventions. Countries where both organizations are currently working on this area may collaborate, include all countries with cities participating in the VZC, among others.
- d) Collaborate to produce a joint report on good biking policies and/or experiences in the Region that can be a model for implementation in this field.
- e) When feasible, collaborate on ongoing road safety projects in countries where either organization is involved in work on topics such as child safety/school zones and corridors, data, speed management, and Vision Zero (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica and Mexico, among others).

Annex C

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

Action on Smoking and Health

1. During 2021, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) conducted many activities in collaboration with PAHO, including the following:
 - a) ASH hosted several educational and informational webinars with and for partners and advocates.
 - b) ASH participated in virtual trainings on strengthening multisectoral action for tobacco control in the Region of the Americas, hosted by PAHO. The aim was to increase the capacity for implementation of the WHO FCTC Article 5, which covers comprehensive multisectoral national tobacco control strategies in the Region, especially in low- and middle-income countries.
 - c) ASH supported Ecuador in developing a technical document on contribution of the WHO FCTC to human rights. Ecuador participated in an ASH webinar that also resulted in an article published in the Tobacco Induced Diseases Journal.
 - d) ASH submitted a report co-produced with other partners to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The report was shared with PAHO country focal points and partners.
 - e) ASH presented during a webinar session entitled “Right to Breathe Clean Air.” The webinar was hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health Tobacco Control Unit in collaboration with PAHO in commemoration of World No Tobacco Day 2021.
 - f) ASH participated in the virtual technical training on tobacco control, “Accelerating the MPOWER Package Implementation during COVID-19 in the Americas: The Pending Agenda and the Future of Tobacco Control,” co-organized by PAHO and the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) of Mexico.
 - g) ASH will contribute an article to the Pan American Journal of Public Health for its 100th anniversary special edition. The theme of the edition is the “tobacco endgame,” its promise, and its increasing incorporation into public health policies and strategies.
 - h) ASH participated in the virtual Pre-Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Conference of the Parties (FCTC COP) and in the Pre-FCTC COP Meeting of the Parties (FCTC MOP) for the Americas in 2021.
 - i) ASH launched the 2021 U.S. Tobacco Industry Interference Index.
-

American Heart Association

2. In 2021 the American Heart Association (AHA) worked with PAHO to launch the self-learning and tutorized modalities of the Program on Social Marketing for Public Health. Regular updates were provided around enrollment of participants in the virtual and tutorized modalities of the training, including impact on the countries represented and cross-promotion opportunities. AHA disseminated the program through its networks, which include over 500 organizations representing professional, scientific, academic, and patient groups. Mechanisms utilized included a webinar featuring the University of South Florida, listservs for the noncommunicable diseases roundtable, the NCD Alliance bulletin, and communications directed to cardiology societies and global health partners with a presence in the Region. The social marketing training opportunity has been shared with AHA’s national community impact staff and related community partners that work closely with Hispanic/Latino communities. Similar outreach and communication dissemination has been undertaken regarding PAHO specific virtual webinars in 2021 in the areas of mental health, the new hypertension control guidelines, and updates from the Region on the HEARTS initiative.

3. AHA also worked to align its implementation science projects with the HEARTS initiative to drive quality improvement. With the support of PAHO, AHA has connected with key focal points for HEARTS in Mexico that will be engaged in future convenings of AHA’s project around guideline-based care in collaboration with the Mexican Society of Cardiology and the National Association of Mexican Cardiologists. AHA, as a member of the planning committee for the next World Congress of Cardiology, has also leveraged opportunities to share its joint work plan with PAHO for potential incorporation into the content that will be developed over the next year.

American Public Health Association

4. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the American Public Health Association (APHA) and PAHO continued to conduct most of their joint activities virtually in 2021.

5. At the APHA 2021 Annual Meeting in Denver and online (hybrid format), PAHO organized two scientific sessions under the conference theme “Creating the Healthiest Nation: Strengthening Social Connectedness.” The session titled “Infodemic in Public Health” considered the effect of excessive, false, or misleading information decisions during public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Speakers discussed the importance of accurate and accessible information to increase citizens’ trust in public health measures and the potential of social networks for improving decision making through big data analytics and behavioral sciences. A second session, “From the Acceleration in the Adoption of Digital Health Solutions to the Positioning of the Health Sector in the Age of Digital Interdependence,” looked at the application of digital health solutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Speakers discussed a set of actions and principles for supporting the health sector in adopting and implementing these solutions.

The session called for support to ministries of health to enable them to participate in the digital transformation process in ways that are ethical, safe, inclusive, and cost-effective.

6. The American Journal of Public Health (AJPH) and the Pan American Journal of Public Health (PAJPH) are collaborating on a joint effort to produce all new research that will be published in both journals, in Spanish in the PAJPH and in English in the AJPH. Each journal will identify three papers for publication, contribute one editorial, and submit a joint editorial written by senior public health professionals. In addition, PAHO and APHA agreed on a joint project to translate three publications for both print and digital versions: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual; Control of Communicable Diseases: Laboratory Practice; and Control of Communicable Diseases: Clinical Practice.

7. APHA also collaborated with PAHO and with the Alliance of Public Health Associations of the Americas (AASPA) to develop joint activities in celebration of Wellness Week in September 2021. A launch event with APHA's Executive Director, a webinar led by AASPA, and a livestream webcast on social media were organized.

American Society for Microbiology

8. Under the current plan for joint work between the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and PAHO, several activities took place in 2021 aimed at strengthening professional development, engagement, and knowledge sharing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. In the second quarter of 2021, ASM and PAHO, alongside the Duke Global Health Institute and the Brigham and Women's Hospital Division of Infectious Diseases, submitted a collaborative proposal to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to improve the capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats. The proposal has been approved by the CDC. It focuses on healthcare-associated infections and COVID-19, including emerging antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and prevention strategies across health care institutions and the community to inform global AMR containment efforts. The ASM-PAHO partnership in this proposal aims to improve laboratory surveillance of *B. pertussis* and assess macrolide resistance in nasopharyngeal specimens from patients who test positive for *B. pertussis*, focusing on participating sites of the established platform for culture diagnosis and PCR capacity in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Panama. It also focuses on use of data to inform, implement, and evaluate vaccine efficacy and other strategies to prevent AMR spread.

10. ASM joined PAHO, the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology (ALAPAC), and the Latin American Association of Microbiology (ALAM) in the PAHO-ASM-ALAPAC-ALAM symposia that took place on 22 June 2021 at the World Microbe Forum organized by ASM and the Federation of European Microbiological Societies. The theme of the symposia was "A Moral Imperative: Detection of Emerging AMR Mechanisms in Low-middle Income Countries (LMIC): The Role of New Technologies." In addition, ASM gave a presentation on the "Detection of AMR

Mechanisms in LMIC: ASM Work in LMIC to Increase Access to Laboratory Technologies for Diagnosis of AMR” and participated in the after-chats responding to audience questions.

11. ASM collaborated with PAHO to develop a training curriculum on quality management for microbiology laboratories in the Caribbean and took part in the virtual opening ceremony on 10 September 2021. The objective of the six-week virtual course was to provide training in the basic principles of quality management and the application of good practices in laboratories. The course is designed for people who work in clinical, veterinary, food, and environmental laboratories. This training was of particular interest to Caribbean laboratories that are part of a South-South cooperation project on AMR between Argentina and 14 CARICOM Member States.

12. ASM continued to enhance the network of ASM Country Ambassadors and Young Ambassadors to facilitate in-country activities.

American Speech-Language Hearing Association

13. In 2021, under the plan for collaboration between PAHO and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the ASHA Ad Hoc Committee members conducted a second round of virtual training workshops in Ecuador. Topics included evidence-based practice, augmentative and alternative communication systems, autism, cochlear implants, child feeding and swallowing, child language and literacy, and aphasiology. Participants included 54 staff from the Ministry of Public Health, located in different regions of Ecuador.

14. ASHA has publicized its joint work with PAHO through press releases posted on 136 websites with a combined audience of 22 million. This collaboration was also featured in two presentations at the ASHA Annual Convention: “Advocacy & Capacity Building for Global Equity: The ASHA-PAHO Collaboration in Ecuador” and “ASHA-PAHO Collaboration: Guyana-Volunteer Instructors Share Their Experiences.

Basic Health International

15. During 2021, Basic Health International (BHI) and PAHO continued to jointly support implementation of the PAHO Plan of Action for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control 2018-2030 (Document CD56/9), increasing access to screening and treatment services. The objective was to develop a curriculum to guide program managers and policymakers in countries as they plan for the introduction of cervical cancer screening and treatment programs. In addition to this guidance document, the collaboration led to a pilot program for a country planning to introduce HPV testing and treatment, aligned with the PAHO/WHO cervical cancer elimination initiative.

16. The training content was developed using the WHO manual on HPV testing, Introducing and Scaling Up Testing for Human Papillomavirus as Part of a Comprehensive Programme for Prevention and Control of Cervical Cancer, which was formally released

in November 2020. Additional reading material was prepared and was distributed to each attendee prior to the individual training session. Using BHI's fieldwork experience, a strategic roadmap was created to roll out and scale up this training effectively and efficiently. The training has been completed, the specific country to roll out the pilot training has been identified, and discussions with the country's ministry of health and on-the-ground teams have taken place.

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

17. In 2021, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), in collaboration with PAHO, supported the discussion of legislative processes for the adoption of effective policies on tobacco control by coordinating submission comments on legislation and regulations in multiple countries. These included a draft tobacco control bill in Mexico; a bill banning tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship in Peru; and a draft bill on plain packaging and a tobacco control regulatory decree in Costa Rica.

18. CTFK collaborated with PAHO to strengthen Member States' capacity by disseminating best practices through workshops and trainings. On 26 August 2021, CTFK participated in the PAHO virtual technical training on tobacco control, "Accelerating the MPOWER Package Implementation during COVID-19 in the Americas," through a presentation on the social media tactics of the tobacco industry in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. CTFK also facilitated a session, "Tobacco Industry Litigation to Challenge the Right to Health and Information: Emphasis on Advertising and Packaging," and made two presentations during the session. On 9 September, CTFK provided four videos and hosted two webinars for PAHO's virtual course for lawyers, "Developing Tobacco Legislation in the Caribbean."

19. CTFK and PAHO have also joined efforts to promote healthy diets and nutrition in the Region. PAHO experts answered questions from civil society organizations as part of a global Twitter chat organized by CTFK for World Obesity Day. In April, CTFK participated in the virtual launch of a PAHO report, Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxation in the Region of the Americas.

20. CTFK developed a research alert and fact sheet to support the dissemination of results from a study conducted by the Ministry of Health and Wellness of Jamaica, the University of Technology, Jamaica, and PAHO, examining the best-performing front-of-package labeling in the Caribbean.

21. With support from CTFK, PAHO and the Healthy Caribbean Coalition have convened workshops for government officials on managing conflicts of interests.

Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative - Latin America

22. As part of the collaboration with PAHO, the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi) carried out the following activities in 2021:

- a) Hepatitis C:
- DNDi co-hosted with PAHO a virtual consultation with NGOs of Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those that work on hepatitis C, to provide inputs for the drafting of the Global Health Sector Strategies on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections 2022-2030. DNDi also submitted contributions to the WHO survey for development of the strategy.
 - DNDi and PAHO delivered presentations in a series of webinars on viral hepatitis organized by the Ministry of Health of Brazil during the month of July in connection with World Hepatitis Day.
 - DNDi participated in key meetings of the Hepatitis Committee of the Andean Health Organization (ORAS-CONHU) to discuss and promote collaboration.
- b) Health systems and services, medicines, and health technologies:
- DNDi contributed to a case study that PAHO is carrying out as part of a project to leverage national experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic with a view to strengthening influenza pandemic preparedness in the Americas.
- c) Chagas disease:
- Periodic meetings were organized with PAHO Headquarters and the PAHO/WHO Representative (PWR) Offices in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Colombia to exchange information, discuss the progress of the agreed work plans, and promote synergies.
 - The Ministry of Health of Colombia, the National Institute of Health of Colombia (INS), PAHO, and DNDi held working meetings to update Colombia's national guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of Chagas disease, adopting the PAHO 2018 Chagas guidelines as a framework document.
 - PAHO and DNDi participated in an international scientific session organized jointly with the Royal Academy of Medicine, "Strategies to Accelerate the Elimination of Congenital Transmission of Chagas Disease," held in June 2021 in Madrid.
 - DNDi collaborated with PAHO and the Colombian Ministry of Health on the preparation of an official document, Framework for Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B and Chagas (EMTCT Plus), based on an adaptation of the regional initiative for the country.
 - A joint intervention protocol was developed by the National Chagas Disease Program of the Colombian Ministry of Health, PAHO, and DNDi for the implementation of a pilot project focused on EMTCT Plus in Arauca and Norte de Santander departments. Training was planned for the maternal and child care road map (all EMTCT Plus events). Diagnostic kits were purchased, and

information, education, and communication materials developed for health workers and the community were printed.

- DNDi participated in two training sessions with PAHO and the National Chagas Disease Program of the Colombian Ministry of Health, focused on the health care of Chagas disease within the framework of the EMTCT Plus Initiative at national level.
- DNDi, INS, and FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics, developed a validation study of 11 rapid diagnostic test kits for Chagas that will serve as a reference point for use in future fieldwork.
- DNDi and INS jointly organized a workshop to discuss technical considerations for the validation of rapid tests for Chagas disease. Different diagnostic centers from countries of the Region participated, along with PAHO and FIND.

d) Leishmaniasis:

- Costa Rica and Mexico endorsed a project to evaluate local interventions for the treatment of uncomplicated cutaneous leishmaniasis. Several meetings were held with the two countries' national control programs to plan implementation of the project, and the PAHO Ethics Review Committee granted pre-approval of project documents. An expert meeting was held to harmonize intralesional meglumine antimoniate application. A pilot of the database embedded in the PAHO data platform SisLeish was carried out. However, the implementation of the project has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A global pilot demand forecasting tool for visceral leishmaniasis (VL) drugs was developed and presented to the PAHO Regional Advisor on Leishmaniasis. The tool is currently under review.
- A collaborative retrospective study, involving 11 institutions in four countries in the Region, collected information on the effectiveness and tolerability of routine cutaneous leishmaniasis treatment in children up to 10 years of age and adults above 60 years of age. The study was concluded in March 2021 and presented to all endemic countries in a virtual meeting of the PAHO/WHO Regional Program for Leishmaniasis in September 2021. Another retrospective study assessed the effectiveness of AmBisome for the treatment of HIV-VL co-infected patients. Reports on both studies were shared with PAHO for presentation in the expert meetings to review the treatment recommendation guideline for the Americas. Publications from both studies are in development.

Framework Convention Alliance

23. In 2021, the Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) and PAHO continued to collaborate on sharing information and supporting implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in the Region of the Americas by strengthening the capacities of governments and civil society representatives.

24. In May 2021, the FCA Regional Coordinator for the Americas collaborated with PAHO and other key tobacco control actors such as CTFK, the Union, and the InterAmerican Heart Foundation on World No Tobacco Day 2021. Together they addressed the challenges related to tobacco control support in different countries of the Region. To better respond to these challenges, the FCA Regional Coordinator responded to requests from civil society and government on strategies to increase awareness of tobacco control as a health and development priority. During World No Tobacco Day, FCA participated as a speaker on the regional panel hosted by PAHO and served as moderator for a second regional event hosted by PAHO and the Ministry of Health of Uruguay.

25. FCA participated in three training and technical events: *a)* a PAHO virtual training series for strengthening the implementation of WHO FCTC Article 5 in the Region of the Americas; *b)* the Tobacconomics-PAHO webinar for Latin America, which focused on the cigarette tax scorecard; and *c)* a technical webinar, “Organized Crime Groups and Illicit Tobacco Trade: Scale and Impact on Security and Public Finances,” organized by the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC. FCA participated in and also moderated the PAHO virtual technical training on tobacco control, “Accelerating the MPOWER Package Implementation during COVID-19 in the Americas,” including the session focused on the future of tobacco control in the Americas.

26. FCA convened civil society organizations working in the Region to organize a network of experts to prepare advocacy-related meetings, including the Region of the Americas pre-COP meeting ahead of the Ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC (COP9) and the Second Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (MOP2).

Global Oncology

27. In 2021 Global Oncology (GO) continued advancing its work with the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHMH), Belize’s national hospital. GO is working to strengthen KHMH’s new oncology program by offering technical support in the following areas: *a)* training and mentorship of clinical staff; *b)* development of clinical protocols; *c)* design and implementation of a novel patient navigation program; and *d)* advocacy at national-level stakeholder meetings.

28. GO is finalizing and submitting a set of cancer treatment guidelines, clinical standard operating procedures, and chemotherapy order sets for treating 11 types of cancer. In February and April 2021, two virtual trainings were conducted in mixing chemotherapy using a biosafety hood with the participation of several pharmacists and other clinical staff from KHMH. In August, GO participated in the official opening ceremony of the oncology unit at KHMH, an event that included representatives from PAHO, the Belize Social Security Board, and the Ministry of Health, among others.

Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering

29. The Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS, for its acronym in Spanish), in accordance with the work plan for collaboration with PAHO, carried out the following activities during 2021:

- a) Two roundtables at the XXXVII Virtual Inter-American Congress on Sanitary and Environmental Engineering: one on Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) and the other on conservation of the Amazon region. PAHO gave a presentation on the state of water and sanitation in health facilities in the Americas. At the X Congress of Region IV of AIDIS (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay), a roundtable was organized on improving water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions in health facilities in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- b) Cooperation in reviewing assessments of health facilities damaged in Central America by Hurricanes Eta and Iota.
- c) Organization of the “25th High-level Technical Meeting: Role of Basic and Environmental Sanitation in Maintaining Health,” where PAHO presented “Sanitation in the Sustainable Development Agenda – SDG 6.”
- d) Development of community-focused messages on risk prevention measures related to water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management.
- e) Organization of two courses on climate-resilient water safety plans and another on climate-resilient sanitation safety plans for 10 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Virtual self-instruction courses were adapted for Caribbean countries.
- f) Preparation of booklets on water quality, sanitation and environment, climate change, and risk and disaster management, as well as one on water and sanitation management and hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- g) Organization and participation in Inter-American Water Day, Inter-American Air Quality Day, and Inter-American Cleanliness and Citizenship Day, at regional and national levels.
- h) Presentation of a diagnostic study of water, sanitation, and hygiene in health facilities in six countries of Latin America and the Caribbean at a regional symposium in October 2020, “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in All Healthcare Facilities: An Urgent Action.”

30. Due to the pandemic, preparation of AIDIS Emergency and Disaster Response Group training was postponed.

InterAmerican Heart Foundation

31. In alignment with the agreed work plan between the InterAmerican Heart Foundation (IAHF) and PAHO, IAHF carried out a series of activities in 2021 to strengthen WHO FCTC implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean and promote policies to improve nutrition and reduce obesity.

- a) IAHF continued its collaboration in Bolivia with the InterAmerican Heart Foundation (FIC) Bolivia, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, PAHO, and other civil society organization members of the Alianza por la Salud to advance the regulation and implementation of Law 1280 on tobacco control. In Argentina, IAHF supported FIC Argentina and other organizations in their campaigns to obtain a complete ban on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship (TAPS) and the ratification of the FCTC, including a campaign in September 2021 to promote a comprehensive tobacco control law in the Province of Buenos Aires. IAHF also supported campaign efforts in Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States of America, and Uruguay.
- b) IAHF is working to develop a community of practice for healthy nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean and to promote front-of-package labeling (FOPL) using octagonal warnings in the Region. Activities include the development of a database and repository of documents on FOPL; support for the labeling protocol developed and tested by the Jamaican Ministry of Health and Wellness, the University of Technology, Jamaica, and PAHO (June 2021, ongoing); and support for campaigns “De frente” and “Etiquetado claro ya” in Argentina (April and July 2021). IAHF has started mapping organizations that are promoting healthy nutrition and FOPL, along with influencers and journalists.
- c) Updating of the national/regional cardiovascular (CVD) scorecard and the development of the “Scorecard Project: Update and Scientific Writing Proposal for a Benchmarking study on CVD and NCD Control Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean,” which will be finished in 2022. It will provide information and materials to support civil society organizations in the Region of the Americas in setting priorities for action and accountability efforts around NCDs and their risk factors.
- d) IAHF participated as an observer in the pre-COP9 and pre-MOP2 regional meetings in the Americas. IAHF has also encouraged its members and affiliates to attend the series of virtual technical trainings, “Tobacco Control: Accelerating the MPOWER Package Implementation during COVID-19 in the Americas,” organized by PAHO and the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) of Mexico. These series provide valuable training and information for PAHO Member States and also for members of civil society organizations.

Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry

32. As part of the joint work plan with PAHO, the Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (FIFARMA, for its acronym in Spanish) carried out the following activities in 2021:

- a) In the PANDRH Steering Committee, FIFARMA provided technical support to review PANDRH’s strategic development plan and financial support to hold a virtual conference. FIFARMA presented the pharmaceutical industry’s suggestions for follow-up of current projects in the Region and the status of the project coordinated by FIFARMA and the Center for State Control of Medicines,

- Equipment, and Medical Devices (CECMED) in Cuba on the use of certificates for pharmaceutical products.
- b) FIFARMA contributed as a panelist at a PAHO event on alternative models for clinical evaluation of new COVID-19 vaccines. With regard to the response of regulatory agencies to the COVID-19 pandemic, material was prepared and shared with PAHO to identify lessons learned and support the strengthening of regulatory systems.
 - c) FIFARMA implemented a digital communications strategy to support World Patient Safety Day. It also organized a webinar on pharmacovigilance.
 - d) FIFARMA supported PAHO in the dissemination of a call for expressions of interest in contributing to the value chain and supply of reagents for the sustainable manufacturing of messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines against COVID-19 and other diseases in the Americas.

Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension

33. In accordance with the work plan of the Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension (SLANH, for its acronym in Spanish) and PAHO in the area of prevention, diagnosis, and care of renal health in the Region of the Americas, the following activities were carried out during 2021:

- a) Publication of epidemiological data and coverage of dialysis and transplantation in Latin America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean in journals such as the *Clinical Kidney Journal*.
- b) Participation in scientific events such as the World Congress of Nephrology, which took place 15-19 April 2021 in Canada; a webinar offered by the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), “Prioritization of Dialysis Patients in National COVID-19 Vaccination Programs: Lessons Learned from Successful Campaigns,” held on 9 March 2021; the XIX Latin American Congress of Nephrology and Hypertension (SLANH 2021), held 23-26 June 2021; and the 54th National Congress of Nephrology (Mexico), held 15-18 September 2021.
- c) Development and publication of recommendations on vaccination against SARS CoV2/COVID-19 in patients with chronic kidney disease and kidney transplantation. The recommendations were developed in collaboration with the Pan American Association of Infectious Diseases and in accordance with the PAHO document on guidelines for determining priority groups and microplanning for the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines (version 1, 18 January 2021).
- d) Dissemination, in conjunction with SLANH, of PAHO courses through the Virtual Campus for Public Health. The courses focus on primary health care personnel working in prevention and management of chronic kidney disease at the first level of care; peritoneal dialysis for multidisciplinary primary health care teams; and acute renal injury at the first level of care.

- e) Participation in a working group formed by PAHO, the Ibero-American Network-Council of Donation and Transplantation, and SLANH, in order to establish a recommendation on chronic kidney disease registries in Latin America. The recommendation will be presented at the annual meeting of the Ibero-American Network-Council.
- f) Participation in the ISN-SLANH-PAHO joint working group for the dissemination and eventual adoption of the recommendations of the “ISN Framework for Developing Dialysis Programs in Low-Resource Settings” in the English- and French-speaking Caribbean.

March of Dimes

34. During 2021, March of Dimes and PAHO participated in and assisted in planning a webinar and Twitter chat for World Birth Defects Day on 3 March, when governmental, civil society, and other stakeholders engaged in raising awareness about birth defects. Both organizations also assisted in the planning of World Prematurity Day on 17 November.

35. March of Dimes started planning for the 2022 International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World. This biennial conference series provides a platform for strengthening birth defects surveillance prevention and care in low- and middle-income countries. March of Dimes and PAHO have worked together to identify a host, formulate a budget, and develop an agenda for the conference.

36. In coordination with CLAP/PAHO, March of Dimes has participated in the assessment and planning of actions related to strengthening birth defects surveillance in Latin America and the Caribbean, advocacy, promoting analysis based on national registries, and building evidence on rare diseases in the Region. This includes increasing the availability of data at regional and country levels on prevalence, the regulatory environment, evidence, and clinical instruments for screening, diagnosis, and treatment.

National Alliance for Hispanic Health

37. The National Alliance for Hispanic Health (NAHH) continued to implement the Buena Salud Américas Community Champions Against HPV initiative to promote multisectoral collaboration and civil society engagement in the prevention and control of human papillomavirus and cervical cancer. Due to the impact and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic at country level, partner agencies were offered an extension to complete the development and distribution of tailored educational materials adapted from the Buena Salud Américas cervical cancer/HPV toolkit.

38. PAHO’s campaign “It’s Time to End Cervical Cancer,” along with resources from the CDC, the National Cancer Institute, and the American Cancer Society, informed the development of the toolkit. In addition, four national partner agencies in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Guatemala worked in collaboration with the ministries of health, ministries of education, and PAHO. To date, educational materials have been developed and shared

with PAHO and made accessible through the program's online portal. A new community grants cycle was launched during the last quarter of 2021.

39. NAHH, through its Nuestras Voces Network initiative, collaborated with PAHO and WHO to support the promotion and information dissemination for World No Tobacco Day 2021. Nuestras Voces implemented bilingual social media activities in collaboration with its local partners to promote World No Tobacco Day's "Commit to Quit" campaign materials and help raise awareness about the importance of quitting throughout the year.

Pan American Federation of Associations of Medical Schools

40. Under the joint work plan with PAHO, the Pan American Federation of Associations of Medical Schools (PAFAMS) carried out the following activities in 2021:

- a) Presentations and joint participation in over 20 webinars on innovations in medical education during the COVID-19 pandemic, in coordination with national associations of medical schools in the Region of the Americas. PAFAMS also participated in six virtual workshops of the International Social Accountability and Accreditation Think Tank, which took place between March and May with the support of the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada.
- b) External review of a document, Accrediting Excellence for a Medical School's Impact on Population Health, and joint interventions as speakers in a workshop on this topic during the Invitational Summit held virtually during the Canadian Conference on Medical Education, 16-17 April 2021.
- c) Working meetings with experts from the Region in March and August to continue an educational project on primary health care. A webinar entitled "The Canadian Perspective on Primary Health Care and Entrustable Professional Activities" was held on 11 March 2021. Entrustable professional activities (EPAs) were developed to meet needs in Central and South American countries; subsequently, a Delphi survey was designed to determine whether these EPAs met the countries' needs and was distributed to PAFAMS members. The results of the survey in Spanish-speaking countries will be included in a final document to be presented at the Pan American Conference on Medical Education (COPAEM) in Concepción, Chile, in April 2022.
- d) Presentation, during COPAEM 2022, of the Concepción Declaration on strengthening primary health care in the Region of the Americas in times of COVID-19. This continues the collaboration initiated with PAHO in 2019 under the Cartagena Declaration, which states that primary health care must be the foundation of health systems.

Pan American Federation of Nursing Professionals

41. In accordance with the work plan of the Pan American Federation of Nursing Professionals (FEPPEN, for its acronym in Spanish) and PAHO, the following activities were held in 2021:

- a) Preparation of a consultation with all FEPPEN member organizations to update the objectives, priorities, needs, and activities that the organizations consider priorities under the FEPPEN-PAHO collaboration plan. These include training, regulation of the profession, working conditions, and leadership and decision making in the ministries of health. At the request of FEPPEN member organizations, the need to strengthen training in high-impact leadership for nurses in Latin America and the Caribbean was incorporated as a priority objective within the collaboration plan.
- b) Continuing efforts to implement postgraduate training in conjunction with the University of Ribeirão Preto and with the Faculty of Nursing of the National University of Paraguay. Due to the pandemic, this will begin in 2022.
- c) Virtual training course for nurse managers, attended by educators from the United States, Chile, and Brazil. Thirteen nurses were trained.
- d) Planning for a regional human resources forum with the 20 member organizations, aimed at strengthening the Region's human resources in nursing and meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- e) Planning for a project to include nurses in decision-making processes in the ministries of health of each country so that the nursing profession can contribute to decisions that benefit the population.
- f) Virtual meeting between the General Council and Executive Council of FEPPEN and the PAHO focal point to review and update collaboration for the period 2021-2023.

Sabin Vaccine Institute

42. The Sabin Vaccine Institute (Sabin) continues to support the PAHO-Sabin work plan focused on education, training, evidence generation, and advocacy initiatives concerning immunization and the introduction and use of new vaccines in the Region of the Americas.

43. Current and recently completed projects include the following:

- a) Sabin hosts the annual *Ciclo de Quadros Vaccinology Course* for Latin America with support from PAHO. This course convenes 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. The 2021 course was held virtually in May in collaboration with the Centro de Estudios para la Prevención y Control

- de Enfermedades Transmisibles (CEPyCET) of the Universidad ISALUD in Argentina. Special emphasis was placed on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the vaccination landscape. Non-technical content also included modules on communications and leadership.
- b) Participants from the course, as well as alumni from past courses, were invited to join Sabin’s Boost Community. As the only global network for immunization professionals, it currently includes over 1,450 active members from 129 countries. Boost provides interactive virtual courses, curated content from reliable sources, access to experts and moderated conversations, a COVID-19 search engine, and technical trainings and continuing education opportunities, particularly in management and leadership. The results of these activities help to further PAHO’s programming to raise awareness of the importance of immunization managers and immunizations and to disseminate up-to-date immunization guidelines.
 - c) Sabin’s Vaccine Acceptance and Demand initiative is generating knowledge about solutions that address the social and behavioral drivers of vaccine acceptance. It disseminates this knowledge to improve vaccine acceptance in low-and middle-income countries, working to ensure that accurate information about vaccines and immunization is shared by gatekeepers of health information. In 2021, Sabin worked closely with the International Pediatric Association to expand vaccine communication training to pediatricians and health workers in the Region. This included an online course and webinar on immunization challenges facing health workers in Latin America, tailored for Gavi transition countries Bolivia, Guyana, and Honduras. Partnering with the Thomson Reuters Foundation (TRF), Sabin delivered training to 15 journalists from these three countries, aimed at strengthening their capacity to report on vaccines and immunization. In response to additional demand from journalists, Sabin collaborated with the TRF and Agência Bori (a Brazil-based organization that promotes accurate science reporting) to offer another training in September 2021, with six weeks of mentorship to follow.
 - d) Sabin also launched a third call for proposals for their Social and Behavioral Research Grants program, which is intended to increase knowledge about interventions that can address the social and behavioral drivers of vaccine acceptance. Several competitive applications were received from research teams in the Region of the Americas.
 - e) Due to the ongoing pandemic, the International Rotavirus Symposium was postponed until August 2022.

United States Pharmacopeial Convention

44. 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, particularly those that are substandard and falsified. In particular, support was provided to strengthen regulatory

functions in the framework of the Caribbean Regulatory System, including the Caribbean Public Health Agency.

45. In collaboration with PAHO, USP delivered to regulators from the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) two webinars on matters related to medicines registration and risk-based post-marketing surveillance.

46. In the framework of the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization, USP and PAHO have exchanged and disseminated information on new resources to support countries' responses to the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Several initiatives at USP, including the Vaccine Advisory Group established in 2020, prioritize efforts to ensure global availability of resources supporting quality-assured products and facilitating processes during crises like the current COVID-19 pandemic. Resources for COVID-19 prevention and treatments include, among others, standards and documents on hand sanitizers, a white paper on protecting the supply chain of COVID-19 health products, as well as standards and methods for treatments like remdesivir, monoclonal antibodies, and other biologics. Some available resources for COVID-19 vaccines include a white paper with strategies and tools for dealing with substandard and falsified vaccines, toolkits for handling vaccines, and best practices and strategies for testing. USP has shared the pertinent resources with all relevant stakeholders to address the needs created by the pandemic. Information has also been broadly disseminated through the PANDRH ListServ.

47. USP experts provided support for the 10th PANDRH Meeting in December 2021.

World Association for Sexual Health

48. The World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) and PAHO focal points maintained close communication during 2021. Despite necessary adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic, major collaborations were carried out through activities that ensured wide audiences and potential impact. The Latin American Center of Perinatology, Women and Reproductive Health (CLAP) participated in the Latin American Congress on Sexology and Sexual Education (FLASSES) with a symposium on the CLAP Network of Care for Women in Abortion Situations (MUSA Network). WAS participated in the technical group meeting regarding the new clinical record on contraception of the Perinatal Information System (SIP).

49. WAS and PAHO organized a webinar, "Sexual health and International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 11," focused on the new chapter of ICD 11 dealing with conditions related to sexual health. The chapter reflects the recognition of sexual rights as well as evidence-based considerations and advances in depathologization of gender identity and expression. This webinar was very well attended through the involvement of the PAHO-led network.

50. PAHO participated in the 25th Congress of WAS, which took place virtually on 9-12 September 2021, with a roundtable on sexual health and reproductive health of

women undergoing abortion processes. More than 1,500 delegates attended the Congress. All the abstracts, including PAHO's, will be published in the International Journal of Sexual Health.

51. A webinar, “The New Sexual Health Scenario in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic,” was organized in October for health systems in Latin America and the Caribbean. Findings of world surveys were presented and conclusions were drawn on how health systems can ensure delivery of services, particularly to the most vulnerable populations.

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

(as of 1 January 2022)

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	2024
American Heart Association (AHA)	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	2021	2024
Basic Health International (BHI)	Basic Health International	2020		2023
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK)	Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids	2021		2024
Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative - Latin America (DNDi)	Iniciativa Medicamentos para Enfermedades Olvidadas - América Latina	2018	2021	2024
Framework Convention Alliance (FCA)	Alianza para el Convenio Marco	2015	2021	2024
Global Oncology (GO)	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	2021	2024
Inter-American Society of Cardiology	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 (RSMMLAC)	2004	2019	2022

SPBA16/5 – ANNEX D

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	2021	2024
Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension	Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nefrología e Hipertensión (SLANH)	2015	2021	2024
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	2021	2024
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	2021	2024
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 (WRI)	Centro Ross para Ciudades Sustentables del Instituto de Recursos Mundiales	2010	2019	2022

- - -