

DRAFT  
ACTION PLAN ON HEALTH AND RESILIENCE IN THE AMERICAS  
Input from the Americas Business Dialogue

## Introduction

We thank the Organization of Americas States (OAS) for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Primary Draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas (“Draft Action Plan”). We appreciate the Draft Action Plan’s reference to partner with private sector, civil society, and other social actors to implement the health actions listed in the plan.

As part of the Summit of the Americas process, the Americas Business Dialogue (ABD) submitted [health policy recommendations](#) to governments in the region, including:

- Establishing a high-level, annual public-private health forum as part of the Summit of the Americas; Ensuring sufficient fiscal space for health and promote innovative health financing;
- Accelerating the development and adoption of appropriate, accessible, affordable, inclusive, scalable, safe, and sustainable person-centric digital health solutions with an equity focus;
- Promoting regulatory convergence for the development of new medicines, vaccines, and medical devices (including equipment, In Vitro Diagnostics, and supplies);
- Promoting measures to capture more investment and generate jobs in the global health supply chain.

The ABD sees many areas of intersection and alignment between private sector’s health objectives and the Draft Action Plan.

## Areas of Alignment

The ABD supports and welcomes the following paragraphs in the Draft Action Plan:

### Promote Equitable Access to Health Services and Products

2. “Expand equitable access to quality, comprehensive, and people- and community-centered health services, and strengthen primary health care to move toward universal health coverage including access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance to national laws and policies with particular attention to the needs and challenges faced by members of groups that have been historically marginalized, discriminated against and/or in vulnerable situations, as well as all women and girls, taking into account their diverse conditions and situations, in a manner consistent with national legislation and international law. To that end:
  - d. Strengthen institutional structures, including building capacities for the regulation and evaluation of health systems and medical countermeasures and the promotion of regulatory harmonization and convergence, and to facilitate the provision of safe, effective, and high-quality health services and medicines; with due attention to building health security and other capacities necessary to perform essential public health functions, including during health emergencies.”

### Invest in Health Systems

4. “Increase the retention and the availability of well-trained and qualified health workers

and build future leadership in public health governance and management, mindful that women make up the majority of the health workforce in the region:

- g. Encourage private sector engagement in supporting the development of health personnel and stability in the health sector profession.”
6. “Examine and develop national budgeting mechanisms that are sustainable over time, in addition to innovative financing tools to strengthen health systems
8. “Strengthen measures to promote transparency and accountability in health budgets and related expenditures and promote ethical conduct to prevent corruption in both the public and the private sectors.”
9. “Encourage regional activities to increase investment and foster industry participation while protecting public health interests, including voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.”

#### **Address Non-Communicable Diseases**

- 13 “Considering the major funding gap in addressing prevention and control of NCDs, scale up commitments to mobilize and allocate adequate, predictable, and sustained resources through domestic, bilateral, regional, and multilateral channels, including international cooperation and official development assistance; and
  - a. Continue exploring voluntary innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships to effectively prevent, control, and treat NCDs.”

#### **Leverage Technology Appropriately**

14. “Leverage digital tools and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of best practices for the development, equitable distribution, and application of these technologies, including the use of artificial intelligence and robotics technologies:
  - 14.d Enable appropriate access to meaningful and comprehensive healthcare data for individuals, decision makers, and the health workforce to support an individual’s health needs, quality health programs and services, and research, including to advance healthcare applications of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, and the interoperability of healthcare information systems;
  - 14.f To promote the equitable and appropriate use of digital health tools and virtual care to facilitate access to healthcare for marginalized populations, including those with difficulty in accessing health services.”

#### **For Consideration**

**The ABD respectively encourages OAS member states to consider the inclusion of trade and investment policies that capture more health investment and manufacturing, as well as generate more jobs by:**

- fostering cooperation in innovation and knowledge exchange in order to reduce asymmetries among countries;
- scaling up good governance, transparency and accountability in health-related government procurement;

- identifying challenges and good practices faced in recruiting, deploying, retaining and protecting sufficient, well-trained, supported and motivated health workers;
- driving greater private sector investment by adopting market and commercial incentives, for example by pricing and reimbursement policies; and
- cooperating with each other and with industry to protect the global medical supply chain and refrain from implementing restrictions on exports to address shortages and problems in supply chains of drugs, medical devices (including equipment, diagnostics and In Vitro supplies) and all essential supplies.

The ABD also encourages OAS member states to revising paragraph 6 of the Draft Action Plan, under “Invest in Health” to read:

- “Examine and develop national budgeting mechanisms that are sustainable over time, in addition to innovative financing tools to strengthen health systems [**including value-based procurement and public-private partnerships**]”

**Furthermore, some additional issue areas of consideration may include:**

- Implementing electronic or cloud-based submission systems to increase efficiencies in premarket submission processes;
- Promote best practices and partnership to improve use, efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of existing health budgets, including by reducing waste and corruption, connecting expenses that track and measure the quality of the patient outcome, and to ensure adequate financing for universal health systems; Adopting a solid regulatory framework and clinical environment in line with international standards and guidelines consistent with WHO Good Regulatory Practices in the Regulation of Medical Products;
- Strengthening ethics and business integrity through incentives and sustainability standards for effective ethics and compliance programs; and
- Reinforcing public health policies to empower individuals to adopt best self-care practices such as WHO Guideline on self-care interventions for health and well-being.

In addition, the ABD was thrilled the U.S. Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, announced the implementation of the [Americas RISE for Health](#) (“RISE”) on the margins of the 9<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Americas. RISE is a public-private health and economy platform that identifies, catalyzes, and accelerates multisectoral collaborations that can be pursued on a voluntary basis to help bring about the resilient health ecosystems and economies that the Americas deserve. **The ABD respectively encourages, for your consideration, the inclusion and recognition of RISE in the Draft Action Plan**, which can serve as a mechanism to implement the health actions outlined, and encourage public-private collaboration to build resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable health systems and economies in the Americas.