

A person wearing a white lab coat and blue nitrile gloves is holding a white rack containing several test tubes with purple caps. The person is also holding one test tube out of the rack. The background is a blurred laboratory setting.

2024

Healthcare Dialogues

AS/COA
HEALTHCARE
DIALOGUES

The Healthcare Dialogues continue to make meaningful contributions to shaping the future of healthcare in the Americas.

The Healthcare Dialogues are an essential platform for fostering in-depth conversations on the state of healthcare in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2024, the series brought together a diverse array of experts, policymakers, and stakeholders, facilitating critical exchanges on health policy, challenges, and innovations across the region. Each dialogue explored vital issues such as healthcare access, system sustainability, and the impact of emerging health technologies, while also highlighting key opportunities for collaboration and progress. By addressing both immediate concerns and long-term solutions, the Healthcare Dialogues continue to make meaningful contributions to shaping the future of healthcare in the Americas.

The series remains focused on promoting public-private cooperation, increasing awareness of medical technologies and innovation, encouraging regulatory harmonization, and sharing best practices in health financing. It brings together COA members from a wide range of sectors, including pharmaceutical companies, food and beverage industries, medical device manufacturers, consumer health companies, technology firms, and shipping companies, fostering multi-sectoral dialogue and collaboration. These interactions bridge the gap between industries, promoting shared knowledge and collective solutions.

In 2024, we held Dialogues in Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Mexico, expanding impact and offering members opportunities to engage directly with local stakeholders. In each country, the Dialogues included high-level discussions with key government officials and the heads of regulatory agencies, ensuring that the conversations remained grounded in actionable policy and regulatory frameworks. Through a combination of public panel discussions and private off-the-record meetings, the Healthcare Dialogues served as a platform for deepening understanding, identifying collaborative solutions, and setting the stage for future healthcare advancements in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2024 Snapshot of Activities

The Healthcare Dialogues had a dynamic and impactful 2024, beginning with a series of high-level meetings and continuing throughout the year with crucial conversations shaping the healthcare landscape in Latin America and the Caribbean.

JAN

MEXICO CITY

The year kicked off in Mexico City, where we hosted an exclusive members-only meeting with **Oliva López Arellano**, then-Secretary of Health of Mexico City. This gathering allowed members to hear directly from the Secretary about the city's advances in healthcare and her vision for ensuring the sustainable management of Mexico City's health system. This was followed by a high-level joint meeting, also members-only, with **Raquel Buenrostro**, then-Secretary of Economy and **Alejandro Svarch**, then-Federal Commissioner of Mexico's Federal Commission for Protection from Sanitary Risk (COFEPRIS). This was an outstanding opportunity for senior COA members to share their main concerns and priorities, discuss ways to strengthen and promote public-private collaboration, and learn more about regulatory advances and priorities. Additionally, participants were able to hear about the efforts jointly promoted by the Secretariat of Economy and COFEPRIS to encourage private investment and economic development in Mexico, particularly within the health ecosystem. These discussions highlighted opportunities to align regulatory frameworks with economic policies to attract investment and foster a more robust healthcare industry.



Meeting with then-Secretary of Health of Mexico City, Oliva López Arellano



Meeting with then-Secretary of Economy Raquel Buenrostro and then-Federal Commissioner of COFEPRIS Alejandro Svarch

FEB

WASHINGTON D.C.

In February, we held a high-level meeting in Washington, D.C., with **Mary Lou Valdez**, Deputy Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The meeting provided an in-depth look at PAHO's priorities and key initiatives for the region, offering members a chance to engage with the Deputy Director and a group of senior-level representatives from the organization. The session focused on strategies to strengthen collaboration between PAHO and the private sector, with a particular emphasis on public health, innovation, and access to healthcare services across the Americas.



Meeting with Mary Lou Valdez, Deputy Director of PAHO

MAR

PUNTA CANA

March saw the continuation of our signature events with a high-level dinner in Punta Cana, held on the margins of the Americas RISE for Health and the Economy & Health Dialogue of the Americas (EHA) annual meetings. This exclusive dinner featured then-Under Secretary of State **Jose Fernandez** and Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce **Diane Farrell**, who provided important perspectives on the intersection of health and economy, and the potential for increased collaboration between government, business, and civil society to advance healthcare systems. The event served as a significant platform for discussing the alignment of health policies with economic growth, setting the stage for cross-border cooperation and future collaborations in health and technology.



(left-right) Co-chair of the Healthcare Dialogues Rafael Chaves, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce Diane Farrell, then-Under Secretary of State Jose Fernandez, COA Vice President Eric Farnsworth and Minister of Health of the Dominican Republic Victor Atallah

JUN

VIRTUAL PANEL

In June, coinciding with Self-Care Month, we hosted a public virtual panel discussion titled **“Self-Care in Latin America: Improving and Supporting Healthcare Systems Sustainability.”** Experts provided an overview on the value of self-care policies, while also analyzing opportunities and challenges for promoting self-care across the region. As countries in Latin America continue to address the challenge

of making their healthcare systems sustainable, the role of self-care has risen as an option to achieve significant savings and gains. The discussion focused on how integrating self-care into national health policies could not only alleviate pressure on overstretched healthcare systems but also contribute to improved health outcomes and long-term cost savings.

AUG

BOGOTÁ

In August, we traveled to Bogotá to host a private members-only meeting with **Francisco Rossi**, Director of the National Institute for Food and Drug Surveillance (INVIMA). During this important meeting, we discussed topics such as strengthening the review committee, progress in the evaluation of

new registrations and technologies, and regulatory convergence mechanisms. The session provided a valuable opportunity to gain insights into the evolving regulatory landscape in Colombia and its impact on the healthcare sector.



Meeting with Francisco Rossi, Director of INVIMA

SEP

BRASÍLIA

In September, we traveled to Brasília to host a members-only meeting with **Antonio Barra Torres**, then-President of Brazil's National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa). Dr. Torres shared invaluable insights into the agency's recent advancements, key regulatory strategies, and

initiatives aimed at strengthening the resilience of the Brazilian healthcare system. The meeting offered an excellent opportunity for members to engage in a deep discussion on the future of Brazil's healthcare policies, particularly around innovation and regulatory best practices.



Meeting with Antonio Barra Torres, then-President of Anvisa



OCT

WASHINGTON D.C.

In October, we hosted a signature dinner in Washington, D.C. in the margins of the 61st PAHO Directing Council. The dinner was attended by Ministers of Health from across the region who were in Washington for the PAHO meetings,

alongside representatives from the private sector. The event provided a unique opportunity to discuss regional health priorities and foster greater collaboration between the public and private sectors.



Minister of Health of Guatemala Joaquín Barnoya



PAHO Director of the Department of Health Systems and Services James Fitzgerald

OCT

BRAZIL

Additionally, we hosted a conversation with Carlos Gadelha, Secretary of Science, Technology, Innovation, and Health Complex at the Brazilian Ministry of Health. Secretary Gadelha discussed Brazil's strategic goals for the Health Working Group during its G20 presidency, highlighting the country's top healthcare challenges and priorities. The session provided valuable insight into Brazil's vision for healthcare innovation and its role in global health discussions.



*Meeting with Secretary of Science, Technology, Innovation, and Health Complex
Carlos Gadelha*

OCT

GUATEMALA

In late October, we hosted an intimate members-only meeting at the Ministry of Health in Guatemala with representatives from the Minister's office. The discussion focused on strengthening the national healthcare system and exploring opportunities for public-private collaboration in healthcare

infrastructure, medical technologies, and service delivery. The meeting provided valuable insights into Guatemala's priorities for improving healthcare access and sustainability through innovative partnerships.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2024, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors for their invaluable leadership and unwavering support. Their commitment to advancing healthcare dialogues and fostering public-private collaboration has been pivotal in making our work possible. Thank you to all the participants who joined us in our programs and meetings. Your engagement, insights, and dedication have enriched the discussions and contributed significantly to the success of the Healthcare Dialogues.

In 2025, our focus will remain on fostering in-depth, collaborative conversations that address the evolving healthcare challenges and opportunities in the region. We will be visiting key countries and engaging with policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders to deepen our partnerships and drive innovative solutions. Building on the progress of previous years, we will also be exploring new avenues for growth, from enhancing regulatory frameworks to integrating cutting-edge technologies into healthcare systems. Our goal is to strengthen the public-private collaboration that lies at the heart of the Healthcare Dialogues, ensuring lasting impact.

The Council of the Americas is grateful to the following companies for their support of the Healthcare Dialogues programs in 2024:



For more information about healthcare related activities at the Council of the Americas, please contact Maria de Lourdes Despradel at mdespradel@as-coa.org

www.as-coa.org/ascoa-healthcare-dialogues

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AS/COA

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