

Joint press release

Colombia, Cuba and Mexico advance in the Latin American and Caribbean Medicines Agency initiative

- New regulatory mechanism would promote self-sufficiency in strategic inputs and reduce the gap in technological and organizational capabilities
- It would promote the development of raw materials, pharmaceutical products and health technologies

Mexico City, March 16, 2023. The National Institute for Drug and Food Surveillance (Invima) of Colombia; the Center for State Control of Medicines, Equipment and Medical Devices of the Republic of Cuba (Cecmed); and the Federal Commission for Protection against Health Risks (Cofepris) of Mexico, are making progress in the creation of the Latin American and Caribbean Medicines Agency (AMLAC).

This initiative, promoted by Colombia, Cuba and Mexico, seeks to strengthen the health capacities of Latin America and the Caribbean, and support the authorization process for drugs and vaccines in health emergencies, contributing to the region's health self-sufficiency plan.

During the meeting, directors of the health agencies and their respective chancelleries, the bases were analyzed to initiate an articulated work of regulatory convergence that allows the self-sufficiency of strategic inputs in the region, covering the gap of technological and organizational capacities for the development of raw materials, pharmaceutical products and health technologies that better respond to the public health needs of these nations.

In addition, the initiative seeks to eliminate barriers to trade in raw materials for medicines and vaccines, and will allow the unification of expedited routes for the authorization of medicines and medical devices in health emergencies.

Regarding this proposal, the directors of the aforementioned agencies pointed out that the convergence and recognition of norms and standards in the field of health regulation is necessary in a globalized world.

This project was announced in January 2023 during the VII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and will be a regional model to show efficiency in the performance of regulatory functions, including the inspection process of factories and laboratories, in addition to representing an opportunity to respond to clinical research.

The heads of Invima, Cecmed and Cofepris determined that the next technical-operational meetings will be held in Acapulco, Mexico in April and later in the cities of Bogota, Colombia and Havana, Cuba.

This project contributes to regional integration in health, since in addition to facilitating trade in these products in the region, it also helps to guarantee access to safe, effective and quality products for the Latin American and Caribbean population.

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