



Mr. Director-General
Dear fellow Ministers,

The government of Washington has prevented my circulation as Brazil's Minister of Health, but it will not restrict the circulation of our ideas. They may impose abusive tariffs, but they will not hinder our vocation for cooperation among the peoples of the Americas.

I express my gratitude to the members for ensuring my participation in this Directing Council of PAHO and to those who have expressed solidarity.

We do not need restrictions on authorities, nor blockades against countries. What we need to restrict are diseases – such as measles, which spreads from North America. We need to block Fake News that threaten lives; conflicts, weapons, and violence.

Nothing will prevent Brazil from acting against denialism. When denialism is fueled by government leaders, as we saw during the Covid-19 pandemic, thousands of lives and the unity among nations are lost. That is why we must act against cuts to vaccination and research programs, which represent a setback for science and a threat to life.

Brazil reaffirms its commitment to strengthening PAHO, its revolving and strategic funds. We will expand our participation to guarantee more affordable products for our people, but also to reduce prices across the Americas, given the size of the Brazilian market. We need to build bridges among the peoples of the Americas, not barriers or walls.

Unlike those who restrict us, we will continue to defend vaccines, science, and Public Health Systems. Brazil leads the G20 Coalition for local production in health, the BRICS Partnership for tackling socially determined diseases, and holds the Pro Tempore Presidency of Mercosur. In cooperation with institutions and companies from the Americas and the world, we will continue to act in regional development for the production of vaccines and medicines on all platforms. To researchers and companies of messenger RNA vaccines: Brazil's doors are open to science and innovation!

President Lula da Silva's government has doubled the Mais Médicos program, ensuring doctors in primary care, especially in the poorest regions. This policy is consolidated in partnership with PAHO and approved by those who matter: WHO's human resources guidelines, Brazilian law, and the Brazilian people.

We innovated with the *Agora Tem Especialistas* program, mobilizing our entire health network, public and private, to face a bottleneck worsened by the pandemic: the waiting lists for consultations, exams, and surgeries.

We resumed increasing vaccination coverage, after six years of decline, uniting efforts of all governments – regional and local – schools, churches, companies, and society.

This year, we delivered to PAHO our report on the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV. We reduced dengue cases and deaths by 75% in 2025. We advanced in reducing cases, deaths, and stigma associated with neglected diseases. We advanced in



restricting the consumption of products harmful to health and reduced taxes on healthy foods in the tax reform approved by Parliament.

I want to make an appeal: it is unacceptable that there are still voices denying the impacts of climate change on life and health. We must move forward together in adapting our health systems to new environmental risks. I bring an invitation for the active participation of countries in the Health and Climate Day at COP30.

Although prevented from being physically by your side, I remain alongside President Lula da Silva, in the defense of multilateralism and respect for countries, of our cooperation in the Americas, and in strengthening science, WHO, and PAHO.

While some expel, we will stand with those who welcome. If some close doors, we will be with those who open them for global health. If they cut resources, we will strengthen support for science and our cooperation funds. We will move forward together, with courage, cooperation, and commitment to life.

Thank you very much.

