Vaccine Diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Importance of U.S. Engagement

Daniel F. Runde, senior vice president; William A. Schreyer Chair; and director of the Americas Program testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women’s Issues on “Vaccine Diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Importance of U.S. Engagement.” Highlights from his testimony include:

- “The United States should play a more prominent, more decisive role in leading distribution of safe and effective vaccines, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. Given the rise of strategic competitors – China and Russia – the United States needs to address global health challenges more effectively.”

- “Ensuring the delivery and administration of safe and effective vaccines across Latin America and the Caribbean will help solve a global pandemic and pay diplomatic dividends for the United States. Increasing vaccine efforts in our Hemisphere is a necessary demonstration of U.S. leadership and is both a moral and foreign policy imperative essential to global health security.”

- “Covid-19 will require multilateral and bilateral actions and significant public-private partnerships that respond to the current crisis and endeavor to improve global preparedness for future pandemics.”

To watch the full testimony, click here.

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