

MINISTERIAL DA ZONA DE PAZ E  
COOPERAÇÃO DO ATLÂNTICO SUL · ZOPACAS  
RIO DE JANEIRO, 8 E 9 DE ABRIL DE 2026



9TH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE  
PEACE AND COOPERATION ZONE  
RIO DE JANEIRO, 8-9 APRIL



# WEEKLY REPORT

B R A Z I L ' S   I N T E R N A T I O N A L   E N G A G E M E N T

**APR/ 13**

**Decoding Brazilian Foreign Policy**

Dear readers,

Our report summarizes a week of intense external action by Brazil, marked by the expansion of its global projection and the advancement of strategic initiatives in trade, defense, diplomacy and international governance. The leading role in the South Atlantic, the expansion of partnerships and the strengthening of an integrated external agenda, oriented to concrete results and the consolidation of multilateralism, stand out.

In the economic area, Brazil expanded its international insertion with new market openings in agribusiness, including negotiations with Cuba and Ethiopia, and expansion of exports to China, reinforcing the diversification of destinations and sanitary robustness. Foreign trade indicators maintained robust surpluses, demonstrating resilience amid an unstable global environment.

In infrastructure and energy, investments in water security, the naval industry, and energy transition stood out, with advances in hydrogen, offshore wind, and measures to mitigate the impacts of fuels, reinforcing the strategy of green transition and industrial competitiveness.

In the fields of defense and technology, there were advances in international cooperation on cybersecurity, combating transnational crime, and strengthening the defense industrial base, with growth in sectoral exports. The CTIR certification and the expansion of partnerships in artificial intelligence and digital sovereignty stand out. Brazil-United States cooperation in the fight against transnational crime gained prominence, with articulation between the Federal Revenue Service and the U.S. Border Agency, within the scope of the MIT Project and the DESARMA system, aimed at sharing information on weapons and drugs.

On the diplomatic level, ZOPACAS was the main milestone of the period, with Brazil assuming its presidency after three decades. The ministerial meeting in Rio consolidated the South Atlantic Cooperation Strategy, reinforcing commitments to maritime security, sustainable development, and South-South integration.

In the National Congress, strategic foreign policy issues were advanced, including defense cooperation agreements, protection of sensitive data, protection of children abroad, and the fight against organized crime. The Senate approved nominations of ambassadors for strategic countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia, reinforcing Brazil's diplomatic presence.

In summary, the week consolidated a multifaceted external agenda, articulating economic development, international security, technological innovation, and strengthening multilateralism as pillars of Brazil's global performance.

AI tools were used in the preparation of this report. All content was reviewed by humans.

## Economy and Trade Agreements

- Mapa accompanies an audit by [Cuba](#)'s NPPO to assess the opening of the market to Brazilian fruit imports. The mission includes visits to São Paulo, the Vale do São Francisco, and Vacaria to analyze traceability and phytosanitary measures. Authorities highlight the robustness of the national system, control, and absence of pests. The audit concludes with a meeting to define results and next steps, with participation from state technicians.
- The Brazilian government has concluded negotiations with [Ethiopia](#), opening the market for various animal protein products, including meat, dairy, fish, inputs, and genetic material. The measure strengthens the presence in the Horn of Africa and bilateral relations. As a result of the joint action of Mapa and MRE, agribusiness has had 574 market openings since 2023.
- Brazil expanded its presence in the [Chinese market](#) through exports of DDGS and poultry viscera meal following sanitary agreements. The first ship, weighing 62,000 tons, arrived in Guangzhou. The initiatives reflect cooperation between the government and the productive sector and expand the export agenda. China, the main destination, imported US\$ 55.3 billion from Brazilian agribusiness in 2025.
- In March 2026, exports totaled US\$ 31.6 billion and imports, US\$ 25.2 billion, generating a surplus of US\$ 6.4 billion and a [trade flow of US\\$ 56.8 billion](#). In the quarter, exports reached US\$ 82.3 billion and imports US\$ 68.2 billion, resulting in a positive balance of US\$ 14.2 billion and a current balance of US\$ 150.5 billion, with overall growth in total Brazilian foreign trade.
- [Finance Minister Dario Durigan](#) begins an international mission on April 13 to the United States, Spain, and Germany to strengthen Brazil's position, with a focus on tax justice, energy transition, and multilateralism. He will participate in meetings of the IMF, the World Bank, and the G20, as well as in bilateral meetings and debates on democracy, industrial policy, and cooperation for sustainable and inclusive economic development.
- In 2025, the general government's gross [tax burden was 32.40% of GDP](#), up 0.18 p.p. from 2024. The advance was mainly due to higher federal revenue, with emphasis on IRRF, IOF, and RGPS contributions. States had a slight drop, while municipalities grew with ISS. The composition remained stable, with a predominance of taxes on goods and services in the period

## Economy and Trade Agreements

- Undersecretary Ana Paula Cavalcante participated in the Prakriti Conference in [India](#), reinforcing Brazil's role in carbon markets. The event discussed governance, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and integration between regulated and voluntary markets. The mission highlighted opportunities, regulatory challenges, and Brazil's potential, while strengthening international cooperation and attracting global strategic climate investments.
- The National Treasury has begun meetings with international investors in London as part of a [two-day roadshow in Europe](#). The initiative seeks to present Brazil, its public debt management strategy, economic advances, and recent reforms. The agency points out that there is no offer of securities; it is an informative action and can only support future evaluations of external funding in various global currencies.
- In 2025, formal [domestic work in Brazil registered 1.30 million active contracts](#), a slight decrease compared to 2024, but with an increase in average remuneration to R\$ 2,047.92. The sector remains mostly female, with older workers and a predominance of high school graduates. There is a strong regional concentration in the Southeast and South, with wage inequalities between regions of the country still persistent.

## Energy and Infrastructure

- The Ministry of Integration and Regional Development approved, through the [Management Committees of the Water Resources Revitalization Programs](#), a package totaling more than R\$ 1.04 billion for water security and the recovery of basins across the country. The resources, from Eletrobras, were allocated to strategic projects in São Francisco, Parnaíba, and Furnas, expanding investments already accumulated since 2023.
- The Ministry of Mines and Energy participated in the [International Conference on Hydrogen in Industry in Vienna](#), where it highlighted hydrogen as a development strategy aligned with decarbonization and industrial competitiveness. Brazil presented the National Hydrogen Program, participated in roundtables with South Africa, and held bilateral meetings at the International Energy and Climate Forum.
- The [Ministry of Mines and Energy](#) promoted a webinar on the global panorama of offshore wind power and the Brazilian potential, with the aim of supporting public policies for the sector. The event brought together experts and debated technical, regulatory, and environmental aspects. CNPE guidelines for the regulation of Law No. 15,097/2025 and for advancing the energy transition were also presented.

## Energy and Infrastructure

- The Minister of Mines and Energy presented government measures to face the international rise in fuel prices caused by [conflicts in the Middle East](#). The package included subsidies for diesel and cooking gas, regulatory actions, and reinforcement of ANP inspections. The initiatives sought to protect the consumer, guarantee supply, and reduce inflationary impacts in the country.
- The [Merchant Marine Fund](#) approved R\$ 136.9 million in investments for the naval industry in the Northeast, aimed at the construction of cargo vessels in Bahia. The projects should generate jobs and expand regional logistics capacity. The initiative strengthened the naval sector, boosted economic development, and integrated the federal strategy to modernize maritime transport infrastructure.
- Direct flights between Recife and Praia, in [Cape Verde](#), began on May 7, operated by Cabo Verde Airlines, with two weekly frequencies. The new route expanded Brazil's connectivity with Africa, strengthening tourism and trade. The operation was part of the international air network's expansion strategy and consolidated Recife Airport as a regional hub.

## Technology and Defense

- On April 8 and 9, the Office of Institutional Security of the Presidency of the Republic participated in the [26th Meeting of CICTE/OAS in Panama](#). Brazil was part of an inter-ministerial delegation and presented actions to combat the financing of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, reinforcing hemispheric cooperation, multilateralism, and prevention of international financial crimes.
- Last Wednesday (8), the [Institutional Security Office of the Presidency of the Republic](#) hosted representatives of the National Institute for Space Research for a meeting on space weather and its impacts on critical infrastructure. Data from the Embrace Program were presented, and potential areas of cooperation were discussed. The meeting addressed Brazil's vulnerabilities and the strengthening of interagency coordination in national security.
- On March 20, 2026, the CTIR.Gov received certification of compliance from the [OAS](#) and the Open CSIRT Foundation, attesting to adherence to the SIM3 CSIRT Americas Baseline standard. The assessment recognized its capability in responding to cyber incidents. With this, the GSI center became part of the CSIRT Americas network, being the fourth country in the region to obtain certification.

## Technology and Defense

- The Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation signed a protocol with Serpro and [iFlytek](#) to boost the development of artificial intelligence in Brazil. The initiative provides for research, training, and technological infrastructure, including solutions in Portuguese, cybersecurity, and cloud. The agreement strengthened digital sovereignty, innovation, and Brazil-China cooperation in digital transformation and public services.
- The Minister of Communications said, at the opening of the [Digital Future Seminar](#), that Brazil can become a major global hub for processing and storing data for artificial intelligence. He highlighted digital sovereignty, the development of Portuguese-language models, and infrastructure expansion through investments in connectivity, 5G, and data centers. The Minister of Management emphasized the government's digitalization.
- The Brazilian [defense industry recorded US\\$ 1.02 billion in authorized exports](#) in the first quarter of 2026, surpassing the same period in 2025 and maintaining a record growth trajectory. The sector had already increased sales in recent years and exports to 148 countries. The performance reflects government actions to promote trade and strengthen the defense industrial base.
- Brazil assumed the presidency of [ZOPACAS](#) after three decades at a ministerial meeting in Rio de Janeiro. The meeting brought together countries from the South Atlantic to strengthen regional cooperation in security, defense, and sustainable development. Joint actions, naval exercises, training, and environmental protection were discussed, culminating in the Rio Declaration and the expansion of multilateral integration.
- The [Ministry of Defense](#) signed memorandums of understanding with companies linked to the Armed Forces to increase legal certainty and promote the export of defense products through the government-to-government model. The agreements, signed at FIDE in Chile, strengthen the Defense Industrial Base, expand international cooperation, and seek to facilitate negotiations and access to strategic global markets.
- The Government of Brazil has announced [cooperation between the Federal Revenue Service and the U.S. Border Agency](#) to combat transnational crime through the MIT Project. The initiative integrates intelligence and joint operations, including the DESAR-MA system, which allows real-time sharing of data on weapons and drugs, strengthening tracking, seizures, and the fight against illicit networks.

## Human Rights

- Mossoró (RN) will receive the [first rural agroecological collective laundry in Brazil](#), in the Mulugunzinho settlement, benefiting 80 families. The MDA project, with support from the Ministry of Women, integrates sustainable technologies, female autonomy, and co-existence with the semi-arid region. Productive backyards, land titles, solar wells, and investment in a seedling nursery for local environmental recovery will also be delivered.
- Brazil now adopts the [first national protocol to investigate crimes against journalists](#) and communicators, formalized at the Planalto Palace. The measure creates a standard for the Public Security System, with a focus on prevention, investigation, and protection of victims. Prepared with civil society entities, it reinforces freedom of the press and includes a contest in honor of Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira.
- President Lula sanctioned three bills to strengthen the [fight against violence against women](#) in a ceremony at the Planalto Palace. The measures include the immediate use of an electronic ankle bracelet on aggressors, expansion of protective measures, and creation of a heinous crime for the murder of family members as a form of punishment. The Day to Combat Violence against Indigenous Women was also instituted.

## Tourism and Culture

- The [Concert of the Brazil-China Cultural Year 2026](#), held in Brasilia, marked the launch of the Chinese cultural program in Brazil, bringing together authorities and the symphony orchestras of China, as well as the Claudio Santoro National Theater. The event symbolized the exchange between the countries, reinforcing culture as a strategic axis of bilateral cooperation, with presentations of Brazilian and Chinese repertoires and programming throughout 2026.
- The [Brazilian women's national team](#) debuted in the FIFA Series 2026, the first edition focused on women's football, in Cuiabá. The team had Kerolin in the spotlight, an athlete from the Athlete Scholarship, in good form at Manchester City. Among those summoned, most were beneficiaries of the program. Brazil faced South Korea, Zambia, and Canada in a tournament that helped grow the sport.
- Brazil participated in the [World Team Walking Championships](#) in Brasilia, in an unprecedented and strategic event for the Olympic cycle towards 2028. The delegation had a strong presence of athletes supported by the Athlete Grant, including prominent names such as Caio Bonfim. The World Cup reinforced public investments, talent development, and the country's consolidation in high-performance sports.

## Tourism and Culture

- The [June festivities](#) were already moving the Brazilian Northeast, with cities such as Caruaru, Campina Grande, Petrolina, and Maracanaú preparing great cultural and tourist programs. Considered the “second carnival in Brazil”, they boosted the economy, tourism, and job creation. In 2025, they moved billions of dollars, reinforcing their economic and cultural importance.
- [Brazilian tourism registered a 68,111 increase in formal jobs over one year](#), reaching 2.39 million workers in February 2026. The sector accounted for about 5% of the national workforce and remained an important source of income. Growth was mainly driven by food and land transportation, linked to domestic and regional tourism.
- The Secretariat for the Promotion and Incentive of Culture held the 369th meeting of the CNIC, approving 481 cultural projects under the [Rouanet Law](#) and authorizing R\$ 702 million in funding via tax incentives. The initiatives include social inclusion actions, artistic training, traveling theater and cultural festivals, strengthening access to culture and the development of the sector in Brazil.

## International Cooperation

- Ibict was approved in the [Capes Global](#) notice, integrating an international network of academic cooperation with several Brazilian universities. The program funds scholarships, missions, and scientific exchange. The initiative strengthens the internationalization of research and highlights the Global South as a strategic priority, expanding the international insertion of graduate studies and promoting sustainable scientific development in the coming years.
- Minister Wellington Dias met with the [Norwegian ambassador](#) to strengthen cooperation in food security and the fight against hunger. The meeting highlighted support for the Global Alliance Against Hunger, protection of the Amazon, and energy transition. The partnership seeks to mobilize resources, expand technical cooperation, and promote sustainable food systems, integrating social, climate, and sustainable development agendas.
- MEC participated in an [FAO meeting](#) in Panama on sustainable food systems, highlighting the PNAE as a global reference. The meeting promoted regional cooperation, integration between nutrition, climate, and agriculture, and the strengthening of public policies. Brazil emphasized the role of education in transforming food systems and supporting family farming, driving sustainable development and regional food security.

## International Cooperation

- The Ministry of Education and [ACTO](#) have begun reactivating the Amazon Education Commission (CEEDA) to define educational strategies tailored to the region. The initiative seeks to strengthen cooperation between Amazonian countries and integrate education with sustainable development. In addition, it is aligned with recent regional commitments, reinforcing education as a central axis of Amazonian governance.
- MGI presented initiatives such as ProPEN and MobGov at a [World Bank forum](#) to modernize public management. The event highlighted federative cooperation, digitalization, and administrative efficiency. Programs expand services, integration, and data use. Advances in public procurement and government mobility were also discussed, reinforcing innovation, transparency, and improvement in the provision of public services to the Brazilian population.
- The [Brazil-UK international forum](#) brought together authorities and experts to discuss expanding body camera use in public security. The meeting highlighted the need for national coordination, standardization, and technical exchange. The cooperation seeks to increase transparency, protect agents, and qualify services, despite institutional challenges, internal resistance, and structural differences between the Brazilian and British models, which require continuous adaptation of public security policies.
- [Brazil and Mexico](#) signed a memorandum for cooperation in health, strengthening public systems and expanding access to services, technologies, and medicines. The agreement includes innovation, vaccines, surveillance, professional training, and pharmaceutical assistance. It provides for the exchange of experiences, the creation of a bilateral committee, and joint actions to face diseases, promote equity, and develop national capacities in public health and technological production.
- [Brazil and California](#) have advanced cooperation on health and climate, integrating public policies and climate adaptation. The dialogue includes surveillance, emergency response, air quality, and disease. Brazil highlighted AdaptaSUS and previous experiences, while both parties seek to strengthen resilience, innovation, and the protection of vulnerable populations, and to expand international action and sustainable joint solutions in public health.
- [The Council](#) has expanded its international activities to strengthen civil society's participation in public decision-making. He participated in forums with the European Union and AICESIS, debating topics including global governance, the economy, and climate change. Its work seeks to promote dialogue, build consensus, and increase the democratic legitimacy of Brazilian foreign policies, without replacing the country's official diplomacy.

## International Cooperation

- The IX Ministerial Meeting of [ZOPACAS](#) marked the launch of a new cooperation strategy between 24 countries of the South Atlantic, focused on maritime security, environment, and sustainable development. Brazil assumed the presidency of the group for three years, reinforcing South-South cooperation, regional dialogue, and the implementation of technical projects to promote a safer, more integrated, and sustainable ocean.

## Environment and Sustainability

- An event in São Paulo de Olivença (AM) promoted sustainable innovation in the [Triple Border of Alto Solimões](#), bringing together communities and institutions. A member of the Integrated Border Program and the BioRegio strategy, she encouraged bioeconomy, training, and entrepreneurship. The initiative strengthens the regional ecosystem, generates incubator projects and expands local economic opportunities, articulates public and private partnerships, and promotes inclusive regional sustainable development.

## Diplomacy

- The Rio de Janeiro Cooperation Strategy, adopted at the IX Ministerial Meeting of [ZOPACAS](#), establishes non-binding guidelines for regional cooperation. It defines areas, thematic blocks, and voluntary actions in ocean governance, maritime security, and sustainable development. It provides for coordination between countries, monitoring of results, and search for financing, aiming to strengthen capacities, integration, and joint responses to the challenges of the South Atlantic.
- It was reaffirmed by the governments of the [South Atlantic States](#) that there is a commitment to sustainable development, environmental protection, and regional cooperation, with peace, sovereignty, democracy, and shared historical ties being highlighted. The importance of international law, particularly the Convention on the Law of the Sea and environmental agreements, was recognized. Commitments were made to the preservation of marine biodiversity, the prevention of pollution, and the promotion of the sustainable use of resources. Measures related to cooperation, scientific exchange, capacity building, and ocean governance were established, ensuring responsible sovereign exploitation and the protection of fragile ecosystems. Mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, and responding to environmental damage were included, and regional integration and joint action were strengthened to address maritime, climate, and security challenges in the South Atlantic, while promoting collective well-being.

## Diplomacy

- It was reaffirmed by the Ministers of the [ZOPACAS States](#), meeting in Rio in 2026, that there is a commitment to peace, cooperation, multilateralism, and international law, with emphasis placed on the historical ties between Africa and South America and the potential for integration. Furthermore, the South Atlantic was defended as a region free of nuclear weapons, external tensions, and militarization. In addition, efforts to strengthen disarmament, maritime security, the combat against crime, and the peaceful resolution of disputes were reinforced. Moreover, sustainable development, environmental protection, the ocean economy, scientific cooperation, trade, connectivity, and social inclusion were promoted, with value given to fisheries, data, innovation, and regional governance. Finally, partnerships, investments, and exchanges among member countries of the Zone were expanded on an ongoing basis.
- The Brazilian government condemned [Israeli attacks in Lebanon](#) that struck wide areas, leaving 254 dead and 1,165 wounded, according to local authorities. The offensive followed the announcement of a ceasefire and threatened a new regional escalation. Brazil reaffirmed its support for Lebanese sovereignty, called for the immediate suspension of military actions, the withdrawal of forces, and compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1701.
- The Brazilian government welcomed the [April 7 ceasefire](#) announcement in the context of the Middle East conflict. It expressed satisfaction with the prospect of negotiations toward a comprehensive peace agreement. It urged the parties to avoid military or rhetorical actions to reduce tensions. It also emphasized the need to extend the ceasefire to Lebanon, amid a severe humanitarian crisis with deaths and forced displacement in the region.
- The [IX Ministerial Meeting of ZOPACAS](#) took place in Rio (8–9/4), bringing together 24 countries from Africa and South America. Brazil assumes the presidency for three years, succeeding Cape Verde. The meeting marked 40 years of the initiative and should approve the Rio Declaration, the Cooperation Strategy, and the Environmental Convention, reinforcing the commitment to peace, security, sustainability, and regional integration.
- The Brazilian government has concluded [negotiations](#) to export pepper seeds to Peru and corn DDG to the Philippines, expanding agribusiness markets. In 2025, Peru imported US\$ 729 million and the Philippines US\$ 1.8 billion in Brazilian products. The new openings bring the total number of markets to 557 since 2023, the result of joint action by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mapa.

## National Congress

- The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies approved a proposal that classifies [PCC and CV](#), as well as Latin American groups, as terrorist organizations, changing current laws. The expanded text provides for the blocking of assets and reflects concern about transnational connections. However, it will still be analyzed by the Constitution and Justice Commission and needs final approval from Congress.
- The House Foreign Affairs Committee approved the [Brazil-Mauritania Agreement](#) on the exchange and protection of classified information, strengthening defense cooperation. The text creates a legal basis for the security of sensitive data and reflects bilateral advances since 2012. In addition, it highlights potential for commercial and technological expansion. The agreement still depends on final approval by the National Congress.
- The House committees approved a [parliamentary mission to Venezuela](#) to discuss trade, energy, and cooperation in the Amazon, with a view to strengthening bilateral relations. In addition, requests ask for clarification on labor complaints at BYD and possible smuggling of Haitian migrants. The initiative seeks to expand institutional dialogue, ensure energy security, and investigate irregularities, keeping a focus on Brazilian national and regional strategic interests.
- The Foreign Relations Committee approved a bill that protects the rights of [Brazilian children abroad](#), guaranteeing their nationality and a safe return to their families. The proposal seeks to prevent improper adoptions and reinforce consular assistance. In addition, the treaty against enforced disappearances was recognized, strengthening Brazil's international commitments to the protection of human rights and fundamental guarantees.
- The Foreign Relations Committee approved an amendment to the [Brazil-France](#) agreement that modernizes criminal cooperation through joint investigations and greater intelligence sharing. In addition, it approved a bill that classifies Venezuelan groups as terrorists and a proposal that suspends rules on controlled products. The measures strengthen security, international cooperation, and the fight against transnational organized crime.
- The Senate approved the nominations of five ambassadors to [Barbados, South Korea, Jamaica, Namibia, and Togo](#), following hearings in the Foreign Relations Committee. The decision fulfills the constitutional prerogative of the House to analyze heads of diplomatic missions. Another 13 nominations will still be voted on in the next deliberative session, scheduled for Tuesday.

## National Congress

- The Senate unanimously approved the nomination of Pedro de Castro da Cunha e Menezes as Brazil's ambassador to [Namibia](#). An experienced diplomat, he worked in several countries and at ICMBio. Bilateral relations include technical, naval, and educational cooperation. In 2024, trade totaled US\$ 11.2 million, reflecting potential for economic and strategic expansion.
- The Senate approved the nomination of diplomat Márcia Donner Abreu to head the Brazilian embassy in [Barbados](#), with jurisdiction also over Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis. With extensive experience, she has been an ambassador to Kazakhstan and South Korea. Approved after a hearing in the CRE, it received 40 favorable votes and one abstention.
- The Senate approved the nomination of diplomat Manuel Montenegro Lopes da Cruz as Brazil's ambassador to [Jamaica](#), with 43 votes in favor. Experienced in international relations, he has worked in countries and areas such as technology and combating illicit activities. He defended expanding humanitarian aid after the hurricane, seeking to strengthen bilateral relations and expand Brazilian exports to the Caribbean country, and promote future sustainable economic cooperation.
- The Senate unanimously approved the nomination of diplomat Luís Ivaldo Villafañe Gomes Santos as Brazil's ambassador to [Togo](#). With extensive international experience, he has worked in Africa, Europe, and the United States. During the debate, he highlighted the priority of cooperation in science education and sustainable energy, aiming to strengthen bilateral relations and support Togolese development.
- The Senate confirmed, on April 8, the nomination of diplomat Fernando Meirelles de Azevedo Pimentel to head Brazil's embassy in [South Korea](#), with 43 votes in favor, three against, and one abstention. An economist from USP, he joined the foreign service in 1996, served in Washington, New Delhi, and Asunción, and since 2022 had led the Trade Policy Department at Brazil's Foreign Ministry.
- The Senate approved an agreement to restructure [Mozambique's debt with Brazil](#), amounting to US\$ 143 million, stemming from previous contracts and a default since 2017. The new arrangement establishes an initial payment of US\$ 6.7 million, followed by 10 semiannual installments, with interest at 3.6% per year, to settle bilateral financial commitments between the two countries.
- The Senate ratified a [Mercosur](#) agreement that standardizes rules for international consumer contracts, strengthening consumer rights. The treaty allows the choice of the most favorable law and provides for the application of the consumer's country's legislation to services such as tourism. In addition, it requires transparency in online contracts, promoting greater legal certainty, regional integration, and stimulating e-commerce and digital services.



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