



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

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Decoding Brazilian Foreign Policy



Rare Earths: Strategic Resources and the Struggle for Power

A content partnership between Cross Analytics and Latitude Relações Internacionais, to qualify the debate on mineral sovereignty between diplomatic, political and institutional channels.

The geopolitics of rare earths exposes a central contradiction of Brazil's international insertion. Although Brazil has the world's second-largest reserve, over 20 million tons, it produced only about 20 tons in 2024. This contrast between geological abundance and limited industrial capacity demonstrates that power does not reside solely in the possession of the resource, but, above all, in control of processing, technology, financing, and access to markets.

In this sense, the Chinese position is particularly revealing. In addition to accounting for approximately two-thirds of world production, China dominates decisive stages of refining and separation, converting industrial capacity into an instrument of influence over global chains. In response to this concentration, the United States and its allies seek to reorganize these structures through FORGE, Project Vault, and private investments to reduce their dependence on China.

It is in this context of reorganization of global chains that Brazil emerges as a strategic territory. Foreign companies account for 42% of the 2,727 requests for mineral exploration, while recent investments materialize this dispute. Australia's Viridis has raised approximately US\$120 million for its Brazilian project, while Brazilian Rare Earths projects around US\$970 million in investments, mainly in Bahia. Even more emblematic is the acquisition of Serra Verde by the North American company USA Rare Earth for US\$2.8 billion, displacing Western capital from an asset previously linked to the Chinese market.

However, the diversification of capital sources does not necessarily mean a transformation in Brazil's position in the world economy. Replacing Chinese buyers with Western companies does not produce autonomy if processing, technology, financing, and marketing remain externally controlled. In other words, they can change the central actors without altering Brazil's peripheral role in the mineral chains.

In view of this, the Brazilian challenge is to transform competition between powers into an instrument of development. To this end, investments should stimulate domestic value addition, technology transfer, professional qualification and local processing. Thus, rare earths offer Brazil an unusual opportunity to trade from increasingly disputed resources. Without its own industrial strategy and mineral intelligence, however, the country risks remaining a supplier of essential resources for the technological transformation of central economies, yet dependent on the structures that convert minerals into wealth and power.

ABOUT CROSS ANALYTICS

Cross Analytics is the mineral intelligence system of Cross Participações S/A. By crossing the official ANM/SIGMINE database with corporate data on the origin of capital and investment values, it produces independent reports on the ownership of mineral assets in Brazil, organized by the country of origin of foreign capital. This work subsidizes due diligence, valuation and business origination for investors and financial institutions, in addition to thematic readings that support the formulation of public policy on sovereignty and mineral security. More information at www.cross.com.br.

Faced with an increasingly complex global architecture of agreements and coalitions, Cross Analytics offers diplomatic channels, policymakers, and industry organizations a factual and independent reading of what is at stake in Brazilian mineral assets.

Dear readers,

Over the past week, Brazil's international insertion has highlighted a combination of persistent vulnerabilities and new possibilities for converting resources into power. The resumption of trade dialogue between Lula and Donald Trump showed that access to the U.S. market remains contingent on the United States' ability to use tariffs as a political instrument. The Brazilian response, supported by ApexBrasil and the diversification towards ASEAN, Germany, Colombia, and Argentina, seeks to expand margins of autonomy without breaking ties with the traditional centers of the world economy.

The most strategic move, however, occurs in rare earths. The interest of American, Australian, Canadian, and German capital confirms that Brazil has gained relevance in the reorganization of mineral chains amid Chinese domination. Abundant reserves, new investments, and billion-dollar projects offer unusual bargaining power. But the opportunity will be wasted if the country remains an exporter of primary resources. Beneficiation, processing, technology, and control of higher-value stages are decisive in transforming geological advantage into structural capacity, avoiding the reproduction of historical peripheral specialization.

This same tension shows up in energy and technology. The discovery of oil at the mouth of the Amazon and the expansion of Petrobras in Ghana broaden the possibilities for projection in the South Atlantic, while investments in supercomputing, artificial intelligence, and data centers connected to renewable energy generation indicate efforts to internalize knowledge-intensive capacities. Cooperation with Norway, Japan, and Namibia also associates natural resources, technology, and strategic insertion.

On the diplomatic level, Brasília diversified interlocutors. The rapprochement with ASEAN, CPLP, Namibia and Venezuela, in parallel with the defense of international law on the Palestinian issue, reinforces a strategy of multiplication of spaces for action. The Lula-Trump dialogue, however, demonstrates that autonomy remains conditioned by asymmetric relations with Washington.

In contrast, there were no relevant discussions in the National Congress capable of keeping pace with the density of this external agenda. The absence is significant: decisions on critical minerals, energy, technology, industrial policy, and trade vulnerabilities require strategic legislative debate. Without articulation between foreign policy, state capacity, and productive transformation, opportunities can reinforce existing dependencies. This requires public coordination, local content, scientific training, and financial instruments that can retain part of the value generated internally. The Brazil has to convert resources, markets, and diplomacy into the ability to influence the structures that determine access to finance, technology, markets, and global production and distribution chains.

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

Economy, Trade and Investment

Gross Value of Agricultural Production

The Gross Value of [Brazilian Agricultural Production](#) was estimated at R\$ 1.39 trillion in July. Crops represent R\$ 893.3 billion, or 63.9% of the total, while livestock adds up to R\$ 504.8 billion. Soybeans lead among agricultural products, followed by corn, sugarcane, and coffee. In livestock, beef stands out. Mato Grosso currently has the highest state GVP in the country.

Why is this important? The agricultural scale increases Brazil's weight in global food chains, but specialization in commodities preserves structurally asymmetric technological, financial, and commercial dependencies.

Brazil and the United States resume trade negotiations

The Brazilian government reported the resumption of trade negotiations with the United States after a conversation between Presidents Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Donald [Trump](#). The dialogue involves representatives of the MDIC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the USTR. The initiative seeks to address bilateral trade issues and takes place amid tensions caused by recent US tariff measures on Brazilian products.

Why is this important? The negotiations show how U.S. commercial power conditions Brazilian choices, while Brasilia seeks to preserve market access, economic autonomy, and its own international negotiating capacity.

MDIC and ABDI promote open innovation

MDIC and ABDI are promoting a webinar on open innovation and business opportunities within the scope of [Reinventa.BR](#) platform. The initiative seeks to bring together companies, universities, and scientific and technological institutions, connecting industrial challenges to innovative solutions. The meeting presents opportunities for collaboration, platform mechanisms, and strengthening the Brazilian ecosystem of innovation, business competitiveness, and technological development in the Brazilian national industry.

Why is this important? Strengthening connections between industry and knowledge can reduce external technological dependencies, increase national productive capacities, and improve Brazil's position in global value chains.

Economy, Trade and Investment

Trade balance for the second week of August

By the second week of August, [Brazilian exports](#) grew 14.3%, reaching US\$16.09 billion, while imports rose 16.2% to US\$13.05 billion. The trade surplus reached US\$3.05 billion. From January through August, exports totaled US\$234.64 billion, imports US\$182.56 billion, and the trade surplus reached US\$52.08 billion, representing a 29.2% increase compared with the same period in 2025.

Why is this important? The trade performance reveals Brazil's insertion in the international division of labor, its capacity to generate foreign exchange, and vulnerabilities resulting from the composition of national exports.

ApexBrasil and ASEAN expand economic relations

ApexBrasil hosted the Secretary General of [ASEAN](#), Kao Kim Hourn, to discuss expanding trade, investment, and business between Brazil and Southeast Asia. The parties highlighted the growth of economic relations, diversification of exports, and new business opportunities. ApexBrasil and ASEAN plan to hold an event in November in Singapore. The rapprochement follows the Sector Dialogue Partnership they have maintained since 2023.

Why is this important? The rapprochement with ASEAN diversifies markets, reduces concentration in traditional partners, and expands Brazil's negotiating margin for its economic insertion among different global poles.

Brazil at Première Vision Paris 2026

Brazilian companies participate in [Première Vision Paris 2026](#) as part of an initiative aimed at the international promotion of the national industry. The Brazilian presence seeks to expand visibility, commercial connections, and business opportunities in the European market, leveraging one of the sector's main international showcases. The performance is part of internationalization efforts supported by ApexBrasil, bringing Brazilian producers closer to buyers, partners, and trends in contemporary global markets.

Why is this important? Internationalization allows it to compete in higher-value segments, but it highlights the Brazilian need to control design, brands, knowledge, and commercialization, as well as domestic material production.

Economy, Trade and Investment

Gamescom Alemanha e Brazilian Indie Pavilion

Abragames will take Brazilian studios to Gamescom Dev and Gamescom 2026 in [Germany](#) through the Brazil Games project, in partnership with ApexBrasil. The debut of the Brazilian Indie Pavilion will screen 36 national games. The initiative seeks business, networking, investment, publishing, and international visibility, connecting Brazilian developers with publishers, platforms, and strategic partners present at one of the world's leading gaming events.

Why is this important? Games insert Brazil in knowledge- and intellectual property-intensive chains, offering the possibility of overcoming peripheral specializations through their own technological, creative, and commercial control.

Brazil and Germany discuss trade and investment

ApexBrasil and German representatives discussed the expansion of bilateral trade and investment, the diversification of supply chains, strategic minerals, energy, agribusiness, and innovation. The [Mercosur-European Union agreement](#) was also part of the agenda. Germany considers Brazil a key partner for more resilient supply chains, while ApexBrasil identifies opportunities in rare earths, mining, technology, infrastructure, bio-fuels, renewable energy, and startups.

Why is this important? The German interest in energy and minerals expands Brazil's negotiating power, as long as strategic resources are converted into industrialization, technology, and sophisticated domestic chains.

Investments in the naval and offshore industry

ABEEMAR and ApexBrasil launched Invest in Brazil – [Shipbuilding & Offshore](#) to attract foreign investment, technology and suppliers to the Brazilian shipbuilding chain. The initiative provides for matchmaking, conferences, missions and international actions. The sector brings together opportunities exceeding US\$ 20 billion by 2030, in addition to US\$ 9.7 billion in decommissioning, across FPSOs, cabotage, maritime support, digitalization, decarbonization, and industrial financing.

Why is this important? Attracting capital while preserving domestic industrial capacity can reposition Brazil within maritime chains, avoid technological dependence, and transform energy demand into lasting national productive power.

Economy, Trade and Investment

Brazilian auto parts at Automechanika Frankfurt

Sindipeças will participate in Automechanika Frankfurt, [Germany](#), with 42 Brazilian manufacturers gathered in the pavilion coordinated by Brasil Auto Parts, in partnership with ApexBrasil. The fair takes place between September 8 and 12. In the first half of the year, Brazilian exports of auto parts reached US\$ 3.8 billion across 189 markets, with Argentina and the United States as the main destinations for national shipments.

Why is this important? The international diversification of auto parts strengthens Brazilian manufacturers and reduces dependence, but lasting competitiveness requires technological mastery amid the global reorganization of the contemporary automotive industry.

Brazilian exports to Colombia

Brazilian exports to [Colombia](#) grew 24.3% in the year, leading ApexBrasil to release a study on bilateral trade and opportunities for national companies. The material examines Brazilian sales performance, the characteristics of the Colombian market, and opportunities for commercial expansion. The initiative seeks to offer market intelligence to support exporters and deepen Brazil's economic presence in the neighboring country.

Why is this important? Expanding regional trade strengthens South American productive links, reduces dependence on central markets, and increases Brazil's ability to organize economic flows within its own regional periphery.

R\$ 210 million for companies affected by US tariffs

ApexBrasil presented a R\$210 million plan to support 5,300 Brazilian companies affected by tariffs imposed by the [United States](#). The strategy seeks to mitigate trade impacts, support exporters and promote market diversification. The measures reinforce the state's role in promoting exports in the face of external barriers, seeking to preserve companies, jobs, competitiveness and Brazil's presence in current international trade.

Why is this important? The tariffs demonstrate the structural power of large markets over exporting economies; diversifying destinations reduces vulnerabilities and expands Brazil's autonomy in the face of unilateral external trade pressures.

Economy, Trade and Investment

Brazil-Argentina Mission on bioinputs

The Renera project promotes the first [Brazil-Argentina](#) mission dedicated to bioinputs, bringing together companies, institutions, and actors from both countries to stimulate cooperation, business, and technological exchange. The initiative seeks to expand productive connections in the sector, explore commercial opportunities, and strengthen biological solutions applied to agriculture, linking business internationalization, innovation, and the development of a regional chain aimed at sustainable and competitive agricultural production.

Why is this important? Regional cooperation in bioinputs can create its own technological capacities, reduce dependence on external inputs, and add knowledge to agriculture, thereby strengthening South American productive autonomy within the global system.

Flávio Bolsonaro strengthens economic team

Flávio Bolsonaro incorporated Adolfo Sachsida and other market-linked figures into the [policy-making team](#) of his presidential campaign. Daniella Marques leads the economic area. The proposals include stabilizing and reducing public debt, limiting subsidized credit, and reducing the costs of formal employment. Adriano Pires and Alexandre Chequer will work on the program's energy and infrastructure formulations.

Why is this important? The agenda signals a dispute over who will control credit, energy, infrastructure and fiscal policy, decisive structures to define relations between the State, domestic capital and global markets.

Energy and Infrastructure

Brazil-Norway cooperation in energy, offshore oil and green maritime transport

[Brazil and Norway](#) selected cooperation projects in energy, offshore oil and green maritime transport, bringing scientific institutions and companies from both countries closer together. The initiative articulates research, innovation and technological development in areas related to the energy transition and the maritime economy. The partnership seeks to produce joint solutions, share specialized knowledge and strengthen technological capabilities applicable to the Brazilian energy, oil and naval sectors.

Why is this important? The cooperation allows Brazil to absorb advanced energy knowledge, strengthen its own capacities and reduce technological dependencies, while expanding its position in global maritime and energy chains.

Energy and Infrastructure

Brazil and Mexico expand dialogue in the airport sector

Brazil and Mexico expanded the airport dialogue during a meeting between Minister Tomé Franca, Mexican Ambassador Carlos García and representatives of ASUR. The Mexican group is negotiating to take over Motiva's airport platform, comprising 17 Brazilian airports. Anac has already granted prior consent to the transfer. The government highlighted concessions, private investments, and the entry of a new international operator in the Brazilian market.

Why is this important? The Mexican entry diversifies sources of capital and infrastructure operators, expands Latin American connections and reduces concentration, although it transfers strategic Brazilian assets to private foreign control.

Discovery of oil at the mouth of the Amazon

The discovery of oil in an exploratory well off the Amazon coast politically strengthened Lula and raised economic expectations in Amapá. Petrobras needs to drill at least three new wells to determine commercial viability, and eventual production would not begin until after 2033. Officials project infrastructure and economic activity, while environmentalists and indigenous people warn of ecological risks, intensifying the conflict between oil development and Brazil's climate leadership.

Why is this important? New reserves can preserve Brazil's energy influence, revenues, and autonomy, but oil expansion occurs as the energy transition redefines future global markets, investments, and power hierarchies.

Petrobras negotiates four offshore blocks in Ghana

Petrobras has started negotiations to explore four offshore blocks in Ghana's Ketta Basin following approval from the Ghanaian Ministry of Energy and Green Transition. According to the company, the region has geological characteristics similar to the Brazilian Equatorial Margin. The initiative integrates a strategy of reserve replenishment, exploratory diversification, and growth, while Africa consolidates itself as Petrobras' main international frontier.

Why is this important? African expansion internationalizes Brazilian capacities, expands control over future reserves and strengthens its presence in the South Atlantic, converting oil knowledge into a Brazilian economic and geopolitical instrument.

Energy and Infrastructure

Data Centers and Curtailment Reduction

The operator of the Brazilian electricity system paved the way for installing [data centers](#) directly connected to solar and wind farms, creating an alternative to using energy that would otherwise be wasted due to grid constraints. The solution seeks to reduce curtailment for renewable generators, connect large consumers to available generation, and bring the expansion of Brazil's digital infrastructure closer to the growing national supply of renewable electricity.

Why is this important? Combining renewable energy and digital infrastructure enables the transformation of electrical advantage into computing capacity, attracting investment and strengthening Brazil's position in data-intensive global value chains.

Elections and the future of Brazilian energy policy

The energy proposals of the main [Brazilian presidential candidates](#) put oil, gas, electricity, renewables, investments and state participation at the center of the electoral debate. The different orientations may influence Petrobras, the exploration of new frontiers, electricity regulation, concessions, and the energy transition. The outcome of the elections, therefore, should determine priorities, financing models and conditions for investors in the Brazilian energy sector in the coming years.

Why is this important? Controlling energy means influencing production costs, investments, and economic security; electoral choices will define how much of that power remains state, private, national, or subordinated to foreign capital.

Brazil at the center of the international race for rare earths

Brazil emerges as an alternative to Chinese domination of [rare earths](#), attracting capital from the United States, Australia and Canada. Foreign companies account for 42% of the 2,727 exploration requests analyzed. Investment grew after Chinese export restrictions. The country has large reserves, while the government and Congress advocate domestic processing, technology transfer, and the protection of national interests amid growing international competition.

Why is this important? Rare earths offer Brazil exceptional negotiating power between the United States and China, as long as it controls resources, processing, technology, and added value within the national territory.

Energy and Infrastructure

Foreign investors compete for Brazilian rare earths

The United States, Australia and other countries are intensifying investments in Brazilian [rare earths](#) to diversify chains currently dominated by China. Brazil has estimated reserves among the largest in the world and receives growing foreign interest. At the same time, environmental concerns arise regarding protected areas, indigenous territories, water, waste, and deforestation, while authorities discuss licensing, domestic processing, technology transfer, and national mineral sovereignty.

Why is this important? The external dispute values Brazilian resources and increases its negotiating capacity, but exporting minerals without processing would reproduce a peripheral position and dependence on the technologically dominant global powers.

Viridis raises US\$ 120 million for Brazilian project

Australia's Viridis Mining and Minerals has announced an approximate US\$120 million fundraising to finance its [rare earths](#) project in Brazil. The funds will support the venture's development and reinforce the presence of Australian capital in Brazil's strategic minerals expansion. The investment comes as countries and companies seek to diversify suppliers and reduce dependence on China-controlled rare earth chains.

Why is this important? Australian capital accelerates the use of Brazilian reserves, but the structural benefit will depend on converting mineral investment into processing, skilled jobs, technological knowledge and domestic industrial capacity.

Brazilian Rare Earths projeta investimento de US\$ 970 milhões

A [Brazilian Rare Earths](#) estimou investimento de aproximadamente US\$ 970 milhões para desenvolver seu projeto de terras raras no Brasil. O empreendimento integra a crescente carteira de projetos minerais estratégicos concentrados especialmente na Bahia. A companhia identifica recursos associados também a elementos como nióbio, escândio e tântalo, reforçando o potencial brasileiro para fornecer minerais essenciais às indústrias tecnológicas e energéticas globais.

Why is this important?

Billionaire projects confirm the strategic value of Brazilian reserves; internalizing processing and technology can move the country from a mineral supplier to an industrial participant in global advanced value chains.

Technology and Defense

First test flight of the SEBIT rocket in Alcântara

The first test flight of the SEBIT [suborbital rocket](#) took place at the Alcântara Launch Center. After a normal takeoff, the vehicle deviated from its expected trajectory, and the Air Force activated the flight termination system. There were no injuries or damage. The test collected data on propulsion, guidance, navigation, control and tracking, which will be analyzed to improve future flights and increase their operational reliability.

Why is this important? Alcântara can convert its strategic location into spatial capacity, revenue, and knowledge, strengthening Brazilian autonomy in a sector dominated by a few powers and technologically dominant global companies.

Brazil invests R\$ 2.3 billion in AI and supercomputers

The government announced R\$ 2.3 billion to strengthen artificial intelligence in Brazil. R\$ 1.3 billion will finance [supercomputing infrastructure](#) in Rio de Janeiro, with Huawei and iFlytek. Another R\$ 1 billion will finance a supercomputer in Rio Grande do Norte, possibly supplied by Nvidia. Initiatives in semiconductors, Brazilian cloud, and algorithmic transparency were also announced to pursue technological diversification and national sovereignty over data.

Why is this important? Its own computing capacity reduces strategic dependencies, expands sovereignty over data, and enables Brazil to trade simultaneously with the United States and China without being exclusively aligned with any single external technology.

Human Rights

Amnesty Commission analyzes 286 requests

The Amnesty Commission analyzed 286 requests related to political persecution that occurred during the [Brazilian military dictatorship](#). The processes are part of the state policy of reparation for victims of violations committed during the authoritarian period. The analysis of the requests seeks to recognize political persecution and evaluate reparatory rights, contributing to policies of memory, truth, justice, reparation, and democratic consolidation in contemporary Brazil.

Why is this important? Reparation of violations strengthens democratic institutions and state legitimacy, elements that condition Brazil's domestic political capacity and international credibility in the face of global human rights standards.

Human Rights

CPLP expands social security for migrant workers

Countries of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries have signed an agreement aimed at guaranteeing social protection to [migrant workers](#) between member states. The instrument seeks to allow recognition and portability of social security rights, protecting workers who contributed in different countries. The measure strengthens coordination among the CPLP's social security systems and expands rights associated with growing labor mobility within the Portuguese-speaking community.

Why is this important? Social security portability protects transnational workers and institutionally strengthens the Lusophone space, allowing Brazil to structure social relations beyond the economic networks dominated by traditional global centers.

Tourism and Culture

Brazilian cinema gains projection in international festivals

Brazilian productions and professionals have received recognition at [international film festivals](#), expanding the country's presence in the global audiovisual circuit. Among the highlights is the Special Jury Prize won by *A Margem do Rio* at the Locarno Festival. The results reinforce the international circulation of Brazilian film production and its ability to reach relevant foreign audiences, markets, critics, and cultural institutions.

Why is this important? Cultural projection expands Brazil's capacity to produce its own narratives, compete for international attention, and reduce its symbolic dependence on the centers that have historically controlled cultural production, distribution, and legitimation.

International Cooperation

UN and Anatel cooperate in significant connectivity

The [United Nations and Anatel](#) have opened a selection for a consultancy linked to a significant connectivity project. The initiative addresses digital inclusion and the development of digital skills, with attention to children and adolescents. The work integrates cooperation aimed at improving public policies, seeking to understand the effective conditions for access and use of connectivity, and strengthening Brazilian capacities for qualified digital inclusion.

Why is this important? Connectivity determines access to knowledge, services, and opportunities; expanding digital capabilities reduces internal inequalities and structural dependence of peripheral populations on globally concentrated technological networks today.

International Cooperation

Brazil participates in regional agendas on climate and family farming in Chile

The Ministry of Agrarian Development participated in regional agendas on climate, financing, and family farming in Chile. The discussions addressed challenges associated with [El Niño](#), financial instruments, and strengthening cooperation among Latin American countries. The Brazilian participation sought to share public policies, experiences, and solutions to increase the resilience of family farmers to climate events and to expand regional mechanisms for sustainable rural financing.

Why is this important? Regional cooperation strengthens Latin America's capacity to respond jointly to climate shocks, reducing financial and technological vulnerability and expanding food autonomy amid asymmetric global economic structures.

Brazil and Japan expand cooperation in blue economy

[Brazil and Japan](#) have advanced cooperation on the blue economy, bringing together governments, institutions, and initiatives aimed at the sustainable development of marine resources. The agenda involves innovation, trade, investments and exchange of knowledge applied to ocean activities. The partnership seeks to combine Japanese technological expertise and Brazilian potential to stimulate business, sustainability, and economic development associated with the responsible use of marine resources.

Why is this important? The partnership connects Brazilian maritime resources to Japanese technology and can add value to the ocean economy, as long as knowledge transfer reduces dependencies and strengthens national productive capacities.

Brazil and Spain cooperate in popular and solidarity economy

[Brazil and Spain](#) held a workshop on the popular and solidarity economy from August 19 to 21. The initiative promotes the exchange of experiences on public policies, financing, legal frameworks and the organization of solidarity economic enterprises. Representatives of the two countries discussed instruments to strengthen this economic model, expand institutional cooperation, and share knowledge applicable to the formulation and implementation of policies for Brazilian workers.

Why is this important? Cooperation in alternative economic models diversifies forms of productive organization, strengthens workers, and expands state capacities to address inequalities reproduced by conventional global market structures.

Environment and Sustainability

Brazil debates the fight against desertification and recovery of the Caatinga at COP17

The Ministry of Agrarian Development participated in [COP17](#) on desertification, presenting Brazilian actions related to the recovery of the Caatinga, living with drought, family farming and social technologies. The agenda highlighted experiences in restoring and combating land degradation, as well as South-South cooperation. Brazil sought to share policies adapted to semi-arid territories and strengthen international responses to the effects of climate desertification.

Why is this important? Combating desertification protects food production, water, and vulnerable territories, while sharing adapted technologies strengthens Brazil's protagonism and the circulation of knowledge among peripheral countries subjected to climate change.

Brazil presents management and restoration at COP17

Brazil's participation in [COP17](#) highlighted sustainable management, environmental restoration, and education as instruments to combat desertification and soil degradation. The delegation presented policies and experiences related to the Caatinga, water and food security, drought adaptation, and recovery of degraded areas. Brazil also advocated for international cooperation and financing to expand responses to climate impacts in especially vulnerable national territories.

Why is this important? Restoring territories increases economic and environmental resilience, while climate finance highlights a dispute over who has the resources to define global responses and who bears their higher costs.

Brazil Pavilion at COP31 opens call for events

The Brazil Pavilion at [COP31](#) has opened a call for proposals for events that will be part of its program during the climate conference. The initiative seeks to bring together governments, civil society, researchers, companies, and other actors to present Brazilian experiences, policies, and solutions related to the climate agenda. The space will serve as a platform for dissemination, debate, and international articulation on mitigation, adaptation, financing, biodiversity, and sustainable development in Brazil.

Why is this important? The pavilion offers Brazil space to influence climate narratives, agendas, and coalitions, vying to set international priorities traditionally shaped by more financially powerful countries.

Environment and Sustainability

El Niño threatens tropical commodities

The formation of a potentially very strong [El Niño](#) increases risks for tropical commodities produced in different regions, including Brazil. Changes in temperature and precipitation can affect crops such as coffee and sugar, as well as rivers, logistics, and hydroelectric generation. The intensity of the phenomenon increases uncertainties about production, prices, and supply, exposing exporting economies to the economic consequences of extreme weather events.

Why is this important? Climate shocks affect exports, prices, and energy, revealing how economies dependent on natural resources remain vulnerable to events that can reorganize global supply and trade.

Brazil prepares implementation of the regulated carbon market

The Brazilian government has proposed implementing a [regulated carbon market](#) in three phases, starting in 2027. The process provides for the gradual development of the structures necessary for the system, incorporation of sectors and mechanisms for monitoring and trading emissions. The initiative aims to create economic incentives for decarbonization, establish an emissions price, and integrate climate policy, business regulation, and Brazilian productive transformation into the carbon market.

Why is this important? Pricing carbon alters costs and industrial competitiveness; building domestic rules allows Brazil to influence emerging environmental markets rather than simply adapting production to externally imposed standards.

Diplomacy

Venezuela grants agrément to new Brazilian ambassador

The Brazilian government reported that Venezuela granted [agrément](#) to Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota as Brazil's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the country. Patriota currently represents Brazil at the World Trade Organization in Geneva and previously served as Consul General in Tokyo. As determined by the Brazilian Constitution, his appointment will still be submitted to the Federal Senate for consideration.

Why is this important? The appointment reinforces diplomatic channels with Venezuela, preserving Brazil's capacity for regional influence and bilateral dialogue in a South American scenario marked by asymmetric geopolitical disputes.

Diplomacy

Brazil and Namibia deepen cooperation in the South Atlantic

On August 24, Mauro Vieira will receive the [Foreign Minister of Namibia](#), Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, during the III Meeting of the Brazil-Namibia Political Consultation Mechanism. The meeting will address issues on the bilateral agenda, especially naval cooperation, energy, and mining. The ministers will also continue the dialogue on the South Atlantic Zone of Peace and Cooperation, which turns 40 in 2026.

Why is this important? The agenda strengthens Brazil's projection in the South Atlantic, articulating defense, energy, and strategic minerals with African cooperation and expanding autonomy from extra-regional powers.

Brazil provides assistance after earthquake in Peru

The Brazilian government is following developments regarding the earthquake that occurred on August 20 in the Ayacucho region of [Peru](#) and expressed solidarity with the Peruvian government and population. So far, there is no record of Brazilian victims. The Brazilian Embassy in Lima monitors the situation and maintains its consular duty to provide assistance to Brazilian citizens in need.

Why is this important? The action reinforces solidarity and consular responsibility, contributing to regional trust and Brazil's capacity for South American articulation in the face of crises that require coordinated state responses.

Brazil reaffirms position on Israeli settlements in the West Bank

Brazil condemned the Israeli advance to build more than 1,200 homes in the E1 settlement, in the occupied [West Bank](#). According to the government, the project would divide the West Bank and isolate East Jerusalem, jeopardizing the two-state solution. Brazil considers the settlements violations of international law and urged Israel to suspend the project and avoid actions equivalent to Palestinian territorial annexation.

Why is this important? The position reinforces international law as an instrument against power asymmetries, preserving Brazil's leading role in the Palestinian issue and its political dialogue with the Global South.

Diplomacy

Gold mine collapse in the Central African Republic

The Brazilian government expressed solidarity with the government and people of the [Central African Republic](#) after the collapse of the Zamboye gold mine on August 17. In an official statement, Brazil also conveyed condolences to the families of the victims of the accident and expressed wishes for a speedy recovery to the people who were injured as a result of the collapse of the mine in the African country.

Why is this important? The demonstration reinforces Brazil's diplomatic rapprochement with African countries and maintains a political presence in a region marked by economic and institutional vulnerabilities and international disputes over mineral resources.

CPLP strengthens Brazil's cooperation and international projection

The [CPLP](#) held its 31st Meeting of the Council of Ministers in Dili, adopting initiatives on youth, mobility, audiovisual, oceans, food, nutrition and school health. A Brazilian initiative to strengthen responses to climate disasters was approved. With nine members, the organization celebrates 30 years in 2026 and promotes diplomatic consultation, cooperation, Portuguese language and economic relations among its member states.

Why is this important? The CPLP expands Brazil's projection in the transcontinental space, strengthening South-South cooperation, diplomatic articulation, and the ability to influence common agendas beyond the traditional centers of global power.

ASEAN expands strategic partnership with Brazil

ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn made an unprecedented visit to Brazil to deepen political and economic relations. The agenda covers trade, investment, energy, food security, biodiversity and development. [ASEAN](#) became Brazil's fifth-largest trading partner in 2025, with bilateral trade of US\$38.4 billion, a Brazilian surplus of US\$10.3 billion, and average annual trade growth of 15% since 2020.

Why is this important? The rapprochement with ASEAN diversifies markets and partnerships, reduces dependence on traditional centers, and expands Brazilian autonomy in the face of the redistribution of contemporary world economic power.

Diplomacy

Trump as a conduit in the face of tensions with Marco Rubio

The Financial Times interprets the cordial phone call between Lula and Trump in the context of the deterioration of Brasilia's relations with [Marco Rubio](#). Brazilian officials see ideological interference by the State Department in the Brazilian elections. Despite the political tensions, Lula and Trump emphasized trade relations. The newspaper assesses that structural ties between Brazil and the United States are likely to survive the current bilateral differences.

Why is this important? The division within Washington allows Brazil to explore different channels of interlocution, preserving structural economic relations while resisting external political pressures on its national autonomy.

Attempt to recompose after hostile gestures from Washington

[El País](#) presents the phone call as an attempt to mend relations after recent hostile gestures from Washington. Lula challenged U.S. tariffs and defended Brazilian sovereignty, while Trump showed willingness to expand cooperation. The presidents discussed organized crime, Ukraine and the Middle East, agreeing on negotiated solutions. The conversation took place in the context of the Brazilian election and after Trump's recent rapprochement with Flávio Bolsonaro.

Why is this important? The conversation demonstrates Brazil's attempt to contain political interference without jeopardizing strategic relations, preserving its autonomy and capacity to negotiate with the dominant power in the Western Hemisphere.

Over the last week, Brazil's international performance has gained additional relevance because it takes place in an environment of systemic instability. The escalation of the war between Russia and Ukraine, tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, and Donald Trump's political deterioration on the eve of the US midterm elections compress security, energy, trade, and diplomacy. In this context, the Brazilian diversification strategy is no longer merely a diplomatic preference but has assumed the character of economic protection.

The resumption of dialogue between Lula and Trump is significant. With an approval rating of 33% according to Reuters/Ipsos and Republican electoral concerns, Washington faces contradictory incentives: to demonstrate strength externally and, at the same time, reduce the economic costs of conflicts that put pressure on fuel prices and inflation. For Brasília, this creates room for negotiation but also risks of instrumentalization of tariffs and bilateral relations by U.S. domestic policy.

The Strait of Hormuz makes this equation more sensitive. The reduction in traffic and uncertainty in oil flows reinforce the strategic value of Brazil's energy capacity. The discovery at the mouth of the Amazon, the international expansion of Petrobras, and the growth of renewables increases Brazil's strategic value amid energy insecurity. At the same time, by preserving channels with the United States, Europe, China, Russia and countries of the Global South, Brasília maintains a relevant margin for dialogue in an increasingly fragmented international order.

More decisive, however, is the geopolitics of rare earths. The North American and European search for chains less dependent on China transforms Brazilian reserves into an asset of power. The interest of Australian, Canadian, German, and North American capitals demonstrates that the competition has already reached Brazilian territory. The strategic issue is not simply to extract more, but to determine who controls processing, technology, financing, and commercialization. Without internalization of these stages, the mineral centrality may reproduce the old peripheral condition of a supplier of raw materials.

The rapprochement with ASEAN, Namibia, CPLP, and Latin American partners, combined with investments in artificial intelligence and supercomputing, points to an attempt to expand options within a more fragmented order. However, the absence of discussions in the National Congress about this transformation is noteworthy.



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