



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

Dear readers,

The Brazilian international agenda of the week highlighted a scenario of growing geopolitical fragmentation, in which opportunities for commercial expansion coexist with protectionist pressures and structural challenges to national competitiveness. The new tariffs imposed by the United States consolidate a trend of instrumentalization of trade as a foreign policy mechanism, imposing on Brazil the need to simultaneously strengthen its economic diplomacy, its negotiating capacity and its industrial policy. Although measures such as the Sovereign Brazil Plan reduce the immediate impacts on exporting companies, their effects will depend on the speed of their implementation and the articulation between the government and the productive sector.

Despite trade tensions, external indicators remain favorable. The trade surplus remains high, supported mainly by agribusiness, the extractive industry, and mineral and energy commodities. However, this performance does not eliminate a recurring vulnerability: the high concentration of exports in products with a low level of processing and the strong dependence on a few consumer markets. In this context, initiatives aimed at opening new markets in China, Africa, the European Union and ASEAN, as well as the international promotion of industrial sectors with higher added value, represent relevant advances, although insufficient to change, in the short term, the Brazilian export structure.

At the diplomatic level, there is a strategy of diversifying partnerships, reflected in the deepening of relations with South Korea, ASEAN, and African countries, while tensions persist with the United States, Argentina, and Nicaragua. This posture expands Brazil's margin of international autonomy, but also requires greater coordination capacity in the face of an international environment characterized by strategic competition between great powers and the weakening of multilateral institutions.

Finally, the approval of new trade agreements, investments in innovation, bioeconomy and strategic technologies, as well as international recognition in areas such as food security and sustainable agriculture, reinforce important assets of Brazil's international insertion. Still, turning these advances into sustained growth will depend less on expanding commodity exports and more on the ability to promote reindustrialization, technological innovation, integration into global value chains, and macroeconomic stability. In an increasingly competitive international system, Brazilian resilience will depend on the combination of pragmatic foreign policy, productive development, and long-term strategic vision.

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

Economy, Trade and Investment

- Senator [Flávio Bolsonaro](#) was made official as the Liberal Party's candidate for the presidency but begins the campaign facing difficulties in expanding his political coalition. Despite the international support for Javier Milei and Benjamin Netanyahu, he is still looking for a vice-presidential candidate, faces internal divisions within Bolsonarism, and is trying to reverse the damage caused by recent controversies and the tariffs imposed by the United States.

Why is this important? The candidacy consolidates electoral polarization, influences Brazilian foreign policy and could redefine relations with the United States, Argentina and other strategic partners if he wins.

- [China](#) has made available the sanitary procedures for the export of frozen Brazilian pulps and fruits, allowing companies to start registering in the CIFER system. The measure covers products such as açaí, mango, guava, pineapple and passion fruit, as long as they are recognized by the Chinese authorities, expanding the access of Brazilian agribusiness to the Chinese consumer market.

Why is this important? The opening strengthens Brazilian agro-export trade, diversifies markets, expands opportunities for domestic producers and deepens the economic partnership between Brazil and China.

- The Ministry of Agriculture reported that [technical negotiations](#) with the European Union on sanitary requirements regarding the use of antimicrobials in animal production are continuing. Brazil reaffirms that it fully meets the requirements of importing markets, defends the credibility of its official sanitary inspection system and maintains a technical dialogue based on science, transparency and cooperation.

Why is this important? The negotiation preserves access to the European market, strengthens Brazilian health credibility and reduces risks to agricultural exports, which are fundamental for the trade balance.

- The Ministry of Agriculture clarified that the information that [China](#) created a new tariff on Brazilian beef is false. The previously announced 55% tariff applies only to exports that exceed the established annual quota. As Brazil has used about 80% of its quota, exports remain subject only to the regular tariff of 12%.

Why is this important? The clarification reduces uncertainties in the market, preserves the confidence of exporters, and confirms the maintenance of the conditions of access of Brazilian meat to the Chinese market.

Economy, Trade and Investment

- The president sanctioned the law that institutes the [National Strategy of the Economic-Industrial Health Complex](#), incorporating it into the Organic Health Law. The initiative establishes guidelines to strengthen the productive, scientific, technological, and innovation capacity of the sector, reducing dependence on imported inputs, medicines, and vaccines through the integrated action of 11 ministries.

Why is this important? The strategy strengthens health sovereignty, stimulates innovation, expands the national production of health technologies, and reduces vulnerabilities in strategic supply chains.

- Law No. 15,473 authorizes fishing [companies affected by U.S. trade tariffs](#) and geopolitical instabilities to access financing lines from the Sovereign Brazil Plan. The support includes fishing and aquaculture exporters, as well as their suppliers, upon proof of the requirements and request from qualified financial institutions and BNDES, when applicable.

Why is this important? The measure reduces the impacts of U.S. tariffs, preserves exports, strengthens the fishing sector and increases the resilience of companies in the face of external geopolitical shocks.

- A significant portion of [Brazilian fish exports](#) was excluded from the additional 25% tariff imposed by the United States. Products such as tilapia, tuna, swordfish, and frozen lobster remain exempt, which represents more than 93% of Brazilian exports to the US market in 2026. Only some specific products, such as frozen fillets and seaweed, remain subject to the surcharge.

Why is this important? The exemption preserves the competitiveness of Brazil's main fish exports, reduces losses in the sector, and mitigates the economic impacts of U.S. tariffs.

- The [new U.S. tariffs](#) reach 23.1% of Brazilian exports and preserve 52.7% without additional specific surcharges. The most affected sectors include machinery, wood, furniture, footwear and clothing, which are subject to cumulative tariffs of up to 37.5%. Bilateral trade has lost dynamism, which requires market diversification and greater diplomatic coordination to mitigate economic impacts and strengthen Brazil's international competitiveness.

Why is this important? It is important because it reveals changes in American trade policy and requires Brazil to adapt its strategies, diversify exports, and pursue economic diplomacy to protect its interests.

Economy, Trade and Investment

- The [Brazilian trade balance](#) maintains a positive performance in 2026. Until the third week of July, exports reached US\$ 204.16 billion, up 10.8%, while imports totaled US\$ 156.85 billion, up 4.9%. The accumulated surplus reached US\$ 47.31 billion, driven by agriculture, the mining and quarrying industry, and products such as soybeans, oil, meat, and minerals.

Why is this important? The strategy strengthens health sovereignty, stimulates innovation, expands the national production of health technologies, and reduces vulnerabilities in strategic supply chains.

- A study by ApexBrasil and the MDIC identifies export opportunities for Brazilian states with the implementation of the [Mercosur-European Union agreement](#). The survey maps strategic products by region, including Amazonian bioeconomy, fruit growing, industrial technology, agribusiness, and clean energy. The agreement expands access to a market of 722 million consumers and a GDP of US\$ 24.2 trillion, encouraging the diversification of exports.

Why is this important? The agreement can decentralize Brazilian foreign trade, expand regional opportunities, add value to exports and integrate national companies into European chains.

- The renera – [Brazilian Bioinputs Hub project](#) presented the Brazilian experience in bioinputs during the 30th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture, in Rome. The initiative, a partnership between CropLife Brasil and ApexBrasil, promotes the internationalization of sustainable agricultural technologies. Brazil, with an estimated bioinput market of US\$ 1.2 billion, seeks to expand scientific cooperation, investments and global trade opportunities.

Why is this important? The initiative strengthens Brazil's role in sustainable agriculture, adds technological value to agribusiness and positions the country as a global provider of biological solutions.

- [South Africa](#) has 581 commercial opportunities for Brazilian products, according to a study by ApexBrasil. As the leading industrialized economy in sub-Saharan Africa, the country offers potential in machinery, equipment, chemicals, food, and the automotive sector. In 2025, bilateral trade reached US\$ 2.3 billion, while Brazilian exports totaled US\$ 1.5 billion, driven by agribusiness and manufactured goods.

Why is this important? South Africa expands the diversification of Brazilian markets, strengthens its presence in Africa and creates opportunities for higher value-added exports.

Economy, Trade and Investment

- SIAVS 2026 will host ABPA's largest international action in partnership with ApexBrasil, bringing together 33 agroindustries that export [animal protein](#). The initiative will promote business roundtables, the participation of buyers, journalists, and foreign opinion-makers, as well as gastronomic experiences. The objective is to expand markets, strengthen the image of Brazilian production and boost exports of chicken, pork and eggs.

Why is this important? The action strengthens the commercial diplomacy of Brazilian agribusiness, expands global connections and promotes products with higher added value in strategic markets.

- An article in the [Financial Times](#) states that, regardless of the winner of the October presidential elections, Brazil will face the inevitable need for fiscal consolidation. The next government will inherit a high public deficit, rising debt and high interest rates, which will require reforms to restore investor confidence, control inflation, stabilize public debt and preserve sustainable economic growth.

Why is this important? The fiscal situation will influence growth, inflation, interest rates and investments, conditioning the economic stability of the next government and Brazil's credibility before international markets and investors.

Energy and Infrastructure

- [Brazil, Uruguay and Bolivia](#) advanced in South American air integration with new adhesions to the Alas Agreement and agreements on the 7th Freedom of the Air. The initiative brings together six countries and provides for studies to harmonize standards, increase competition and integrate civil aviation markets. The measure seeks to reduce regulatory barriers, strengthen regional connections and increase the international competitiveness of air transport.

Why is this important? Air integration facilitates trade, tourism and investments, strengthens regional connectivity and expands South America's insertion in global chains.

Technology and Defense

- The Minister of Defense, José Mucio Monteiro, visited the facilities of [Avibras Aero-co](#), in Jacareí (SP), highlighting the company's technological capacity in the defense and aerospace sectors. The company presented projects for missiles, rockets, special vehicles and defense systems. Accredited as a Strategic Defense Company in 2026, Avibras reinforces the national industry's role in strategic technologies.

Why is this important? Avibras represents the Brazilian technological capacity in defense, innovation, and highly complex industry, strengthening national sovereignty and strategic export potential.

International Cooperation

- FAO's SOFI 2026 report confirmed that [Brazil remains outside the Hunger Map](#), with undernourishment below 2.5% of the population. Between 2021 and 2025, the share of Brazilians unable to purchase healthy food fell from 31.2% to 21.1%. FAO highlighted policies of social protection, family farming, income generation and sustainability as international references.

Why is this important? FAO's recognition strengthens Brazil's international image in food security, sustainability and public policies, expanding its influence in global debates on hunger.

Tourism and Culture

- The [I Forum of Wine Tourism and Gastronomy of the Americas](#) will be held in August, in São Paulo, bringing together specialists, authorities and representatives of the gastronomic sector in South America. With the support of UN Tourism and the City of São Paulo, the event will promote debates on sustainability, innovation, territorial development and international promotion, in addition to promoting tourist routes, wines, coffees and Brazilian products.

Why is this important? The event strengthens experiential tourism, values Brazilian regional products and expands international opportunities for gastronomy, wines and associated production chains.

Diplomacy

- Brazil recalled its ambassador in Buenos Aires after statements by Argentine President [Javier Milei](#) during his visit to the country, in support of Flávio Bolsonaro's presidential candidacy. The Brazilian government considered the attacks on Lula and the Judiciary a diplomatic affront. The episode highlights the political distance between the two governments and the recent deterioration of bilateral relations.

Why is this important? The diplomatic crisis between Brazil and Argentina affects regional coordination, Mercosur, and the political stability of the main South American bilateral relationship.

- The [Brazilian government](#) rejected the additional 12.5% tariff imposed by the United States on products linked to the investigation into forced labor, alleging the absence of a legal basis and the protectionist nature of the measure. Brasília said it may appeal to the Reciprocity Law and the WTO. At the same time, it is holding negotiations and has launched the Sovereign Brazil program, with R\$ 18.5 billion destined to affected companies.

Why is this important? The dispute highlights the use of tariffs as a geopolitical instrument, requires economic diplomacy and tests Brazilian trade defense mechanisms in the face of international protectionism.

- The Brazilian government has expressed concern about [Nicaraguan President](#) Daniel Ortega's statement that there will be no new elections in the country. Brasília reaffirmed that free, periodic, plural and transparent elections are fundamental pillars of democracy and highlighted its commitment to these values. Brazil called on Nicaraguan authorities to guarantee the right of the population to choose their representatives.

Why is this important? Brazil's position reinforces its commitment to democratic principles, influences its regional foreign policy, and highlights tensions around governance and political rights in Latin America.

- [South Korean President](#) Lee Jae-Myung's state visit to Brazil reinforces the Strategic Partnership between the two countries. The bilateral agenda prioritizes cooperation in semiconductors, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, energy transition, health, and innovation. In trade, it seeks to expand productive integration, diversify exports, and facilitate access to Brazilian agricultural products. In 2025, bilateral trade reached US\$ 10.8 billion.

Why is this important? The rapprochement with South Korea expands investments, access to technologies and integration into strategic chains, strengthening Brazilian competitiveness in sectors of the future.

Diplomacy

- Minister Mauro Vieira participated in the [3rd Brazil-ASEAN Trilateral Meeting](#) and the Southeast Asia Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation Conference, in Manila. The agenda sought to deepen the dialogue partnership that began in 2023 and expand political and economic cooperation. In 2025, Brazil-ASEAN trade exceeded US\$ 38.4 billion, with a Brazilian surplus of US\$ 10.3 billion.

Why is this important? The rapprochement with ASEAN diversifies trade partners, expands markets for Brazilian products, and strengthens Brazil's presence in the Indo-Pacific.

- The [Brazilian government has denied visas](#) to two senior U.S. State Department officials who planned to visit Brazil ahead of October's presidential elections. According to Brasilia, the mission intended to meet with electoral authorities and could question the integrity of the electronic voting system. Washington said it was an official visit, while the episode intensified diplomatic tensions between the two countries.

Why is this important? The episode intensifies Brazil-US tensions, reinforces concerns about external interference in electoral processes, and may influence diplomatic relations during the 2026 presidential campaign.

National Congress

- The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies expressed repudiation of Daniel Ortega's decision to suspend the elections in [Nicaragua](#), classifying it as a democratic setback. The note criticizes the concentration of power, the persecution of opponents and the restrictions on civil society, demanding a position from the Brazilian government. The text reinforces the importance of free elections, political plurality and democratic values in international relations.

Why is this important? The decision amplifies regional concerns around democracy and political rights, affecting Brazilian diplomacy, Latin American integration and the debate on democratic principles.

- The Presidency of the Committee on Foreign Relations and National Defense criticized the imposition of additional tariffs by the [United States](#) on Brazilian products, attributing the episode to the conduct of negotiations by the federal government. The note accuses diplomatic failures, defends greater commercial pragmatism and warns of possible economic impacts on Brazilian companies, workers and exporters affected by the measures.

Why is this important? The tariff dispute highlights tensions in the Brazil-US relationship, its impacts on foreign trade, and the challenge of reconciling sovereignty, diplomacy, and national economic interests.

National Congress

- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will monitor the impacts of the 25% tariff imposed by the [United States](#) on Brazilian products. The president of the CRE, Nelsinho Trad, defended the technical analysis, diplomatic dialogue and the adoption of measures to protect national interests. The commission will evaluate government actions, sectoral impacts and alternatives, such as market diversification, logistics infrastructure and strengthening competitiveness.

Why is this important? The Senate's work aims to monitor the economic effects of tariffs, support the affected sectors and expand Brazilian strategies in the face of changes in international trade.

- The Senate approved [16 international agreements](#) in the first half of 2026, expanding Brazil's external insertion in a global scenario marked by trade tensions and protectionist measures. Among the main advances are the agreements with Mercosur, the European Union, EFTA and Singapore. The strategy seeks to diversify markets, strengthen Brazilian foreign trade and respond to the weakening of economic multilateralism.

Why is this important? The expansion of trade agreements reduces external dependencies, creates new opportunities for Brazilian exporters and strengthens the country's position in the face of global protectionism.

The events of the week show that the main source of influence in the international system remains concentrated in the ability to define the rules of trade, finance, production, and technology. The new tariffs imposed by the United States illustrate this **structural power** by unilaterally altering the conditions of access to the American market, forcing trading partners to adapt their strategies regardless of their will. It is an exercise of power that transcends the **military dimension** and demonstrates the permanence of the U.S. ability to shape global economic incentives.

However, the Brazilian behavior reveals a strategy to mitigate these asymmetries through the diversification of partners and the expansion of its economic autonomy. The expansion of relations with China, South Korea, ASEAN, South Africa, and the European Union, added to the promotion of industrial exports, bioinputs, and agricultural technologies, represents **an attempt to reduce structural vulnerabilities** and expand the country's relative power. As is well known, in this context, States increase their power by reducing their critical dependencies and strengthening their capacity to influence productive, technological, and financial flows.

The current situation reinforces Brazil's intermediate position as a **semi-peripheral economy**. The country maintains a robust trade performance and expands markets, but remains heavily dependent on the export of agricultural, mineral, and energy commodities. Investments in innovation, the health industry, defense, the bioeconomy, and value addition indicate efforts to move up the international division of labor. However, this transition remains limited as long as the export basket remains concentrated in goods with a low degree of processing and high intensity in natural resources.

Finally, the United States' performance on the international stage reveals its intent to **assert its position as a hegemonic actor and guarantor of international order**, even in the face of geopolitical challenges posed by Russia, China, and Iran. Washington continues to exercise structural leadership, although it increasingly resorts to coercive trade instruments to preserve strategic advantages in the face of China's rise.

In this environment, Brazil seeks to reconcile autonomy, pragmatism, and diplomatic diversification, avoiding automatic alignments. The approval of new trade agreements, the expansion of cooperation with Asian and African partners, and the simultaneous **defense of multilateralism** reveal a consistent strategy of international insertion. Brazil's main challenge is to convert its commercial relevance into greater capacity for structural influence by reducing external dependencies through reindustrialization, technological innovation, and the development of sustainable competitive advantages.



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