



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

SEP/ 14

Decoding Brazilian Foreign Policy

Dear readers,

In the last week, Brazil's international insertion has combined economic advances, diplomatic repositioning, and the growing centrality of critical minerals, in a context marked by disputes over technology, financing, production chains, and access to markets. We did not detect relevant issues in the fields of Defense and Technology, Tourism, and Culture, nor in the National Congress. As a result, the agenda analyzed focused on trade, infrastructure, sustainability, human rights, cooperation, and diplomacy.

The main strategic vector was the Brazilian advance in critical minerals and rare earths. BNDES financing for Viridis for research and processing, the pilot operation of Brazilian Rare Earths in Camaçari, the results of terbium recovery in Itarantim, and the European regulatory dispute involving Brazilian nickel assets show that the country is no longer just a reserve territory and has come to occupy a more visible position in the global reorganization of these chains. Still, the challenge remains structural: to convert mineral availability into technological capacity, domestic processing, intellectual property and greater value retention.

On the macroeconomic front, slowing inflation has reinforced expectations of further interest rate cuts, creating potential space for investment and activity. However, domestic autonomy remains constrained by international energy prices, financial volatility, and geopolitical tensions, as evidenced by government measures to cushion the impact of high oil prices on fuel prices.

There have also been advances in trade diversification. Openings and prospects in Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Eurasia, and Southeast Asia expand the range of alternatives to Brazilian meat, manufactured goods, plastics, machinery, and other goods. This diversification reduces excessive dependencies, but does not eliminate the concentration of commodity exports or the need to increase technological content.

In diplomacy, the BRICS Summit in New Delhi reinforced the debate on the reform of international financial governance, greater representation of emerging countries, and the integration of payment systems. For Brazil, the BRICS remain relevant not only as a political platform, but as an instrument to expand the room for maneuver in an international order still marked by power asymmetries. The rest of the week, therefore, combines opportunities for diversification with the permanent challenge of transforming natural assets, the market, and diplomacy into lasting structural power.

In this context, the quality of Brazilian insertion will depend less on export volume and more on the capacity of the State and companies to coordinate financing, infrastructure, innovation, economic diplomacy, and value addition in sectors capable of shifting hierarchical positions.

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

Economy, Trade and Investment

Brazil-Italy and the Mercosur-EU Agreement

ApexBrasil met with more than 100 Italian business people during a business mission following the [Mercosur-European Union](#) agreement. The agency intends to expand trade, investments, and business cooperation between Brazil and Italy. The program involves sectors such as energy transition, sustainable infrastructure, digital technologies, machinery, engineering, pharmaceuticals, health and agri-food, seeking to transform commercial predictability into concrete opportunities for Brazilian and Italian companies.

Why is this important? The agreement expands Brazilian alternatives in the central economy by diversifying markets, attracting investment, and strengthening the country's presence in higher-value global chains.

Brazil takes companies to SMM Hamburg

Brazil participated in [SMM Hamburg](#), an international fair for the naval, maritime, and offshore sectors, with a delegation comprising 20 companies and more than 30 representatives. The initiative, promoted by ApexBrasil, ABEEMAR and SINAVAL, sought to generate business, establish international connections, attract investments and strengthen the competitiveness of the Brazilian naval industry through its own stand, business meetings and international trade promotion activities.

Why is this important? The shipbuilding industry concentrates technology and strategic capabilities, so its expansion strengthens Brazilian productive autonomy and improves the national position in the international division of labor.

Brazilian Beef na Arábia Saudita

ABIEC and ApexBrasil will take ten Brazilian companies to the [Saudi Food Show 2026](#), in Jeddah, promoting beef in the Saudi market. Between January and August, Saudi Arabia imported 50,000 Brazilian tons, valued at US\$297.9 million, representing annual growth of 24.9%. The fair will bring together more than a thousand exhibitors and representatives from more than ninety-five countries for international business.

Why is this important? Expansion in the Middle East diversifies markets and reduces vulnerabilities, while reinforcing Brazil as a relevant food supplier in a world economy marked by disputes.

Economy, Trade and Investment

Brazilian animal recycling in Argentina

ApexBrasil presented Brazil's potential in animal recycling during a meeting in Mendoza, [Argentina](#). The Meeting of the Americas brought together leaders to discuss circular economy, innovation, and international opportunities related to the use of waste of animal origin. The Brazilian participation aimed to showcase national capabilities, promote regional integration, and expand commercial opportunities for companies within the sector's value chain.

Why is this important? Adding value to waste expands Brazilian industrial capacity by reducing dependence on primary exports and fostering a more qualified insertion in the international division of labor.

Dominican Republic: 830 opportunities

A study by ApexBrasil identified 830 opportunities for Brazilian products in the [Dominican Republic](#), resulting in savings of US\$ 127.4 billion. In 2025, bilateral trade reached US\$ 812.5 million, of which US\$ 762.3 million was Brazilian exports. The opportunities are concentrated in food, machinery, manufacturing, chemicals, construction, and tourism. Between January and July 2026, Brazilian exports grew 22.3% year-on-year.

Why is this important? Latin American diversification expands Brazil's commercial autonomy by reducing dependence on large centers and strengthening the country's presence in markets subject to external influence.

Peru: more than 1,450 opportunities

A study by ApexBrasil identified more than 1,450 trade opportunities for Brazilian products in [Peru](#), a country with a GDP of US\$340.3 billion. The main sectors include machinery, transport equipment, chemicals, manufactured goods, automobiles, and infrastructure. In 2025, bilateral trade totaled US\$ 4.6 billion, of which US\$ 3.2 billion corresponded to Brazilian exports, which grew 10.1% in annual terms.

Why is this important? South American integration strengthens regional chains by expanding markets for Brazilian manufacturers and reducing dependence on external productive and financial centers.

Economy, Trade and Investment

Brazilian and Eurasian plastics

ApexBrasil will organize a virtual round to connect up to 15 Brazilian plastic solutions companies with buyers from [Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States](#), including Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. The initiative, carried out with Think Plastic Brazil and the National Plastic Institute, targets applications in agriculture, construction, packaging, housewares, and industry, promoting diversification of Brazilian export markets.

Why is this important? The Eurasian opening reduces Brazilian trade concentration by expanding markets for manufactures and creating alternatives amid the growing geopolitical fragmentation of global economic chains.

Inflation and interest rates in Brazil

The slowdown in Brazilian [inflation](#) has strengthened expectations of a new cut in the basic interest rate by the Central Bank. The movement comes as investors evaluate price data, economic activity, and international financial conditions. The prospect of monetary easing has strengthened amid cooling inflation, although external risks related to oil, global trade, and geopolitical conflicts continue to influence Brazilian economic decisions.

Why is this important? Falling interest rates may stimulate investment and growth, but Brazil's monetary autonomy remains constrained by international financial flows, external prices, and geopolitical shocks.

August trade balance

Brazil recorded a [trade surplus](#) of US\$7.39 billion in August, with exports of US\$33.16 billion. By the end of the year, the balance reached US\$55.32 billion. Sales to the United States fell 9.7% between January and August, while they grew to China, India and the European Union. Oil, soybeans, copper, gold and meat boosted Brazilian exports in the period analyzed.

Why is this important? The surplus strengthens Brazil's external position, but its composition reveals dependence on commodities and exposure to trade disputes between major powers in the world economy.

Economy, Trade and Investment

Brazilian meat to Indonesia

[Indonesia](#) has authorized 21 new Brazilian establishments to export beef and beef offal, bringing the total to 73. The approval took place after a sanitary audit. In 2025, Brazil exported 31,511 tons of beef to the country. In the first half of 2026, it also shipped 21,191 tons of beef offal to that market.

Why is this important? Access to the Indonesian market expands the Asian diversification of Brazilian exports and, at the same time, reduces dependence on a few destinations for agricultural products.

Energy and Infrastructure

Renegotiation of Brasília Airport

The government published a public notice to renegotiate the concession of the [Brasília International Airport](#), providing for R\$ 1.2 billion in investments. The project includes a new international terminal, a garage building, a new access road, and the incorporation of ten regional airports into the concession. The auction is scheduled for December. The modeling is the result of a consensual solution involving TCU, Anac, the National Civil Aviation Secretariat, and Inframerica.

Why is this important? Airport infrastructure strengthens international connectivity by improving the movement of people and goods, increasing logistics efficiency, and facilitating Brazilian integration into global flows.

Central Agro Route

ANTT approved a public notice for the [concession of 887.6 kilometers](#) of the BR-070, BR-174 and BR-364 highways between Mato Grosso and Rondônia. The contract provides for R\$ 6.13 billion in investments, permanent services, urban crossings and electronic tolls. The concession will be 30 years old, with R\$ 4.30 billion in operating costs, and will integrate its modeling with the future railway expansion of the Brazilian Center-North within the national territory.

Why is this important? Logistics corridors reduce costs and strengthen Brazilian exports, although they can deepen peripheral specialization when they do not stimulate industrialization, technology, and productive chains within the country.

Energy and Infrastructure

Dredging of the Port of Santos

Six port entities alerted the TCU to the impacts of the stoppage of works to deepen the channel at the [Port of Santos](#). The dredging contract, valued at R\$ 619.7 million, was suspended after business representation. According to the entities, the current depth limits ships, increases freight and demurrage costs, causes operational losses, and reduces the competitiveness of the main Brazilian port complex internationally today.

Why is this important? The Port of Santos connects the Brazilian economy to world markets; therefore, logistical bottlenecks raise costs and reduce the country's competitiveness in global chains.

Fuel subsidies

The Brazilian government has expanded measures to mitigate the impact of the international rise in [oil prices](#) on domestic fuel prices. Extraordinary resources were allocated to subsidize diesel and other derivatives, while taxes on gasoline and ethanol were reduced. The response comes in the face of Brent prices close to US\$ 100 and Brazil's dependence on imported diesel, which accounts for more than a quarter of national consumption today.

Why is this important? Subsidies show how global energy prices transmit geopolitical shocks to the Brazilian economy and compel the state to mobilize resources to preserve domestic stability.

Grid, solar, batteries and electric vehicles

Aneel has opened a [public consultation](#) to modernize rules for connecting distributed solar generation, batteries, electric vehicles, and flexible loads. The proposal updates national distribution procedures to establish monitoring, communication, protection, and control of distributed energy resources. The objective is to make the electricity grid safe, efficient, flexible, and prepared for consumers who also produce, store, and supply electricity to the system.

Why is this important? Modernizing the electricity grid strengthens national capacities by expanding technological integration, improving energy security, and preparing Brazil to compete for positions in the global energy transition.

Energy and Infrastructure

Fuel measures

The government reduced the PIS and Cofins levied on [gasoline](#) by R\$0.63 per liter and eliminated the contributions on hydrous ethanol. For road diesel, it authorized a subsidy initially set at R\$ 1.00 per liter. The measures respond to international oil price volatility, which has returned to the US\$ 100 range, and to Brazil's dependence on diesel imports.

Why is this important? The volatility of oil shows that energy control continues to structure power, because, even though it is a relevant producer, Brazil remains exposed to international prices and dependencies.

Critical Minerals and Rare Earths

Viridis and BNDES financing

[BNDES](#) has approved financing of R\$ 77.5 million for Viridis to create a Rare Earth Research and Processing Center in Poços de Caldas. The project will produce mixed carbonate on a pilot scale and develop techniques for ionic clays. The plant is part of the Colossus Project and is expected to begin implementation in 2027, with full operation by the end of 2028.

Why is this important? Mastering rare earth processing allows Brazil to internalize technology, add value, and reduce the subordinate position associated with exporting strategic mineral resources.

MMG, Brazilian nickel and European Union

European regulators are preparing antitrust objections to MMG's acquisition of [Anglo American's Brazilian nickel assets](#). The European Commission fears reduced competition in ferronickel, a relevant input for stainless steel, and greater dependence on Chinese-controlled chains. The operation has become part of European concerns about economic security, critical minerals, and vulnerability to Chinese restrictions on strategic exports.

Why is this important? Brazilian nickel has become part of the Sino-Western rivalry because controlling ownership, processing, and trade of these minerals means controlling essential industrial, technological, military, and strategic capabilities.

Critical Minerals and Rare Earths

Brazilian Rare Earths em Camaçari

Brazilian Rare Earths has put its first-phase metallurgical pilot plant in Camaçari, Bahia, into operation, producing the first rare earth mineral concentrate. The company secured R\$ 6.4 million in co-financing from SENAI CIMATEC and partners for the second hydro-metallurgical stage, equivalent to about 59% of the expected costs, with commissioning scheduled for the second quarter of 2027.

Why is this important? Moving from mining to processing expands national value capture by reducing technological dependencies and strengthening Brazil's presence in global rare-earth chains.

Sigma Lithium and the quilombola community

The Court suspended the licenses and activities of [Sigma Lithium's Grota do Cirilo](#) mine following action by the Federation of Quilombola Communities of Minas Gerais. The decision considered evidence indicating that the quilombola community of Baú is within the project's area of influence. Sigma contested the measure, said it had not been notified, and said it was still operating at that time.

Why is this important? The race for lithium exposes distributive conflicts because global demand for the energy transition shifts territorial pressures to the peripheries, where communities compete on costs with foreign capital.

Itarantim and terbium recovery

[IMC Rare Earths](#) has released metallurgical test results for the Itarantim project in Brazil, with terbium recovery reaching 95.2%. The tests also produced mixed rare earth carbonates and recorded the recovery of neodymium, praseodymium, and dysprosium. The company considers the combination of high levels and ease of leaching to be especially relevant and important attributes for permanent magnets, electric vehicles, electronics, and defense.

Why is this important? Terbium and dysprosium underpin advanced technologies, so Brazil's geopolitical relevance will depend on transforming its mineral reserves into controlled industrial, technological, and commercial capacity.

Human Rights

Inter-American Court and the Munduruku people

The [Inter-American Court of Human Rights](#) visited Pará to monitor the provisional measures regarding the Munduruku people. Representatives met in Santarém, Jacarezi-nho Village, and Jacareacanga. Communities reported threats, mercury contamination, difficulties accessing water, health, food, and education, as well as territorial issues, demarcation, inspection, sustainable activities, and prior consultation on initiatives that could affect their territories.

Why is this important? Munduruku protection reveals how economic expansion puts pressure on peripheral territories, while international institutions can limit power asymmetries between states, companies, and vulnerable communities.

International Cooperation

Brazil at FAO

The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture participated in the 37th Session of the [FAO](#) Committee on Fisheries, in Rome, from September 9 to 11. The agenda discussed artisanal fisheries, the fish chain, fisheries statistics, food security, and international cooperation. Brazil, Italy, and other countries also discussed opportunities for business cooperation along the value chain for international fisheries and aquaculture products.

Why is this important? Participating in the development of international fisheries standards enhances Brazil's ability to influence the rules governing access to global markets, resources, and food chains.

Brazil in PISA

The [PISA 2025](#) results placed Brazil among the ten countries that have increased their proficiency the most since 2006. The country ranked seventh in the evolution of reading and mathematics and eighth in science. In 2025, it recorded 408 points in reading, 377 in mathematics, and 409 in science, partially narrowing the gap relative to the OECD average.

Why is this important? Education constitutes structural power because it conditions productivity, innovation and technological autonomy, in addition to expanding Brazil's possibilities of ascending in the contemporary international economic hierarchy.

Environment and Sustainability

Brazil, China and carbon credits

Brazil intends to assess whether China can become a buyer of Brazilian carbon credits and move towards a bilateral agreement by [COP31](#). Authorities will discuss the issue in Wuhan, in parallel with the Brazil-China-European Union articulation to bring together markets responsible for about 42% of global emissions. The government is evaluating the international commercialization of the so-called internationally transferred mitigation results, ITMOs.

Why is this important? Carbon markets turn climate regulation into economic power because prices, standards, and buyers define how resources and gains from the transition will be distributed internationally.

New protected areas

Federal decrees expanded the [protected areas](#) in the Amazon and the Caatinga by approximately 675,000 hectares. Four Sustainable Development Reserves were created in Amazonas, especially near the BR-319, and the Sete Cidades National Park in Piauí was expanded. The measures aim to curb deforestation, regulate land occupation, and protect biodiversity, water resources, and communities amid the expansion of regional economic infrastructure.

Why is this important? Preserving Amazonian territories strengthens Brazilian environmental assets, but their strategic value will depend on the national capacity to convert them into sovereignty, financing, technology, and lasting economic development.

Deforestation in the Cerrado and Amazon

In August, [deforestation](#) fell by 19% in the Cerrado, to 238 square kilometers, but increased by 12% in the Amazon, to 358 square kilometers. Between January and August, however, there was a 7% drop in the Cerrado and a 31% drop in the Amazon. Almost 6,000 square kilometers were deforested across the two biomes during the period, with distinct territorial and legal patterns among Brazilian regions.

Why is this important? Reducing deforestation strengthens Brazil's capacity to transform environmental heritage into climate influence, financing, and international legitimacy within the contemporary global political economy.

Environment and Sustainability

Rainforest Fund

Brazil faces time pressure to consolidate its international financing mechanism for conserving [tropical forests](#). The proposal seeks to mobilize capital globally and remunerate countries that maintain preserved forests, but it depends on financial buy-in, credible institutional design, and international support. The project's advancement has become central to Brazil's strategy of climate leadership and international environmental financing.

Why is this important? Financing forests turns conservation into an economic asset, so defining rules, capital, and criteria will determine how resources are distributed globally among different economies.

Maritime Green Corridors

Brazil expanded its role in maritime decarbonization after signing a memorandum with Singapore to develop a [Green and Digital Navigation Corridor](#). The initiative integrates the efforts of the Ministry of Ports with those of Norway, the Netherlands, and France to create maritime routes using low- or no-emission fuels and technologies, in line with the environmental and technological transformation observed in contemporary world maritime transport.

Why is this important? Green shipping standards will reshape competitiveness, as countries that dominate fuels, ports, and clean technologies will have greater influence over costs and supply chain flows.

Diplomacy

BRICS and financial reform

[BRICS](#) finance ministers and central bank governors have advocated reforms to the IMF, the World Bank, and other financial institutions to expand the representation of emerging economies. They have also criticized unilateral trade and financial measures and supported interoperability between payment systems. The group aims to develop faster, cheaper, more accessible, and more secure cross-border solutions, including discussions on connecting national digital currencies.

Why is this important? The reform of international finance and payments challenges structures concentrated at the center because it expands emerging countries' capacity to reduce monetary, institutional, and financial dependencies.

Diplomacy

Brazil seeks full partnership with ASEAN

Brazil seeks to become an [ASEAN](#) Dialogue Partner as part of its diplomatic rapprochement with Southeast Asia. Mauro Vieira visited Singapore and Thailand, advocating for trade and investment and for reopening the Thai market to Brazilian meat. Brazil-ASEAN trade increased from US\$ 3 billion in 2003 to US\$ 38 billion in 2025, making the bloc an increasingly relevant trading partner for the country.

Why is this important? The rapprochement with ASEAN diversifies partners and reduces the centrality of Atlantic markets, while positioning Brazil in front of growing Asian poles in the world economy.

Agricultural mission to Angola and Morocco

The Minister of Agriculture, André de Paula, will carry out a mission to [Angola and Morocco](#) between September 14 and 18. In Angola, he will participate in the signing of a memorandum of agricultural cooperation and productive investment, as well as in meetings with companies, the sovereign fund, and the development bank. In Morocco, he will participate in a business seminar focused on trade, investments, and the rapprochement between the countries' productive sectors.

Why is this important? South-South cooperation expands markets and Brazil's presence in Africa by creating alternatives to center-periphery relations and favoring the internationalization of Brazilian companies, technology, and capital.

Camex and socio-environmental report on exports

Camex's Strategic Council approved CEC Resolution No. 17, creating the [Social and Environmental Analysis Report for Export Operations](#). Prepared by Itamaraty and the Ministry of Agriculture, together with 12 other ministries, the Brazilian document will provide information on compliance with social and environmental requirements for agricultural exports and strengthen government instruments to respond to the growing environmental requirements imposed on international trade flows.

Why is this important? Socio-environmental standards have become instruments of commercial power, so developing national certification mechanisms expands Brazil's capacity to respond to the demands of large consumer markets.

Diplomacy

Thirty years of the CTBT

Brazil marked the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the [Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty](#), a multilateral instrument designed to prevent experimental nuclear explosions. The country reaffirms its support for disarmament, non-proliferation and the strengthening of multilateral international security mechanisms. The anniversary comes as challenges to the treaty's full entry into force and growing nuclear tensions remain.

Why is this important? The nuclear regime maintains global military hierarchies, while advocating for a test ban allows Brazil to contest strategic privileges without seeking its own military nuclear capability.

BRICS Summit in New Delhi

Mauro Vieira represented President Lula at the [BRICS Leaders' Summit](#) in New Delhi on September 12 and 13. The meeting closes the Indian presidency and will address inclusive global governance, multilateralism, resilience, innovation, cooperation, sustainability and growth. Members, partner countries and guests will participate, in a context marked by wars, economic tensions and questions about the existing multilateral architecture.

Why is this important? The BRICS articulates the interests of states dissatisfied with existing hierarchies and seeks to expand its institutional, financial, and political influence in a world order still marked by Western power.

Brazilian project and UNESCO award

Brazil selected a project to compete for the [UNESCO](#) award dedicated to the use of information and communication technologies in education. The nomination integrates Brazilian performance into the mechanisms of education, science, and culture and promotes experiences related to educational digital transformation. The initiative showcases Brazilian policies in a space focused on innovation, technological inclusion, and the dissemination of good educational practices.

Why is this important? Educational technology influences the distribution of knowledge and innovation, so designing Brazilian experiences strengthens international recognition and expands the capabilities associated with cognitive power.

Diplomacy

Mauro Vieira in Thailand

Mauro Vieira visited [Thailand](#), the first by a Brazilian foreign minister since 2018. The agenda sought to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, science, technology, innovation, and food security, as well as cooperation against organized crime, human trafficking, and cyber fraud. Brazil also seeks to reopen the Thai market for its meat and strengthen rapprochement with ASEAN in an increasingly protectionist international environment.

Why is this important? The relationship with Thailand expands Brazil's access to Asian supply chains and reduces dependencies, while strengthening autonomy amid polarization between the United States and China.

Mauro Vieira in Singapore

Mauro Vieira visited [Singapore](#) and met with Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister Grace Fu, and businesspeople. The talks addressed the Mercosur-Singapore agreement, economic relations, Asian geopolitics, sustainability, and rapprochement with ASEAN. Singapore is Brazil's second-largest partner in Asia, with bilateral trade of US\$10.7 billion in 2025 and a Brazilian surplus of US\$4.1 billion that year.

Why is this important? Singapore concentrates finance, logistics, and technology; therefore, deepening ties expands Brazilian access to strategic networks and strengthens economic diversification in an Asian order.

The recent conjuncture shows that the transition of power between the United States and China occurs less as a replacement of hegemonies and more as an erosion of the structural capacities that organized the world system under US predominance. In this sense, the advance of the Houthis on Perim and Bab el-Mandeb, combined with restrictions in Hormuz and attacks on Saudi infrastructure, has affected one of the pillars of this power: the ability to ensure the safe flow of energy and trade. In addition, Donald Trump's refusal to authorize attacks against the Houthis, even after a Saudi request, reveals limits to reproducing the role of regional guarantor.

These limits, in turn, have repercussions on peripheral economies. With Brent above US\$100 and the Saudi system under pressure, Brazilian diesel subsidies and gasoline tax cuts serve as a defensive response to an external shock. Thus, there is convergence between the energy crisis and Brazilian fuel policy, as the State absorbs part of the costs resulting from the vulnerability of energy routes. Even with the fall in inflation, which would reduce interest rates, oil demonstrates that domestic autonomy remains conditioned by the international structure.

It is precisely at this point that critical minerals gain additional importance. Suppose fossil energy shows dependencies inherited from the previous order; rare earths, nickel, and lithium show potential dependencies from the next order. For this reason, the Brazilian effort to advance in processing, technology, and value addition seeks to prevent the energy transition from only reproducing center-periphery relations. At the same time, the opening of new markets expands room for maneuver, but will only yield autonomy if accompanied by productive capacity.

Consequently, the BRICS Summit in New Delhi should be read as part of this same systemic movement. By advocating reforms, greater interoperability of payments, and coordination instruments outside Western-dominated institutions, the bloc expands alternatives as the U.S. capacity to provide security and stability erodes. However, this does not mean replacing the existing order. Internal divergences, the absence of a common currency, and dependence on central markets limit its transformative force. The BRICS accelerates multipolarization, but does not inaugurate new hegemony. For Brazil, therefore, the central issue is to connect protection against energy shocks, dominance over strategic minerals, trade diversification, and diplomatic coordination to convert external vulnerability into autonomy before a new global hierarchy is consolidated.



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