



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/ 28

Decoding Brazilian Foreign Policy

Dear readers,

Over the past week, Brazil's international engagement combined economic diversification, competition over strategic resources, and diplomatic activism in an environment marked by growing fragmentation of the international system. In the National Congress, there was no significant discussion of Brazil's international relations, shifting the agenda's center toward the Executive Branch and multilateral forums, especially the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York.

On the economic front, the Mercosur EFTA agreement expanded prospects for access to European markets, while France and Poland were presented as destinations offering new opportunities for Brazilian exporters. At the same time, the trade surplus and initiatives to internationalize technology companies reinforced efforts toward greater diversification. However, the downward revision of GDP growth shows that greater international projection remains constrained by domestic limitations and by the need to increase the value added of Brazilian exports. The decision to delay reciprocity measures in response to United States tariffs, in turn, signals a strategy to preserve negotiation channels without abandoning trade defense instruments.

In critical minerals and rare earths, new exploration results and transactions involving projects in Goiás, Minas Gerais, Piauí, and Bahia confirmed growing international interest in Brazilian resources. This competition, however, highlights a central challenge: possessing reserves does not mean controlling the value chain. Structural gains will depend on Brazil's ability to expand processing, technology, financing, knowledge, and domestic governance, while avoiding the reproduction of an international role that is essentially based on resource exports.

Diplomacy was strongly concentrated around the United Nations General Assembly. Brazil participated in initiatives on inequality, international humanitarian law, and multilateralism, and supported UNRWA, while also strengthening bilateral partnerships with Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Denmark. Within IBSA, Brazil, India, and South Africa called for urgent reform of global governance, while the G4 again pressed for reform of the Security Council. Taken together, these initiatives reveal a strategy to expand autonomy through partner diversification and Global South coalitions. This movement increasingly connects trade, strategic resources, and foreign policy, making the relationship between economic autonomy and diplomatic capacity increasingly clear. The decisive challenge remains transforming diplomatic presence, natural resources, and market access into an effective capacity to influence the rules, institutions, and structures that distribute power in the world system.

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

Economy, Trade and Investment

Mercosur EFTA Agreement Takes Effect

The free trade agreement between [Mercosur and EFTA](#) begins granting tariff preferences with Iceland in October and Norway in November, while Switzerland and Liechtenstein are still completing their internal procedures. The agreement covers goods, services, investment, and public procurement. At the same time, MDIC launched a platform to guide Brazilian companies on tariffs, regulations, and trade opportunities arising from the new bilateral agreement.

Why does this matter? The agreement diversifies markets and external rules, expanding Brazil's options vis-à-vis dominant economic centers and strengthening the state's capacity to negotiate a more autonomous international position.

Trade Surplus Expands

By the third week of September, [Brazilian exports totaled US\\$21.89 billion](#) and imports totaled US\$17.61 billion, resulting in a surplus of US\$4.28 billion. Year to date, exports reached US\$272.75 billion and imports US\$213.15 billion. Agriculture, extractive industries, and manufacturing expanded, while the trade balance remained positive during the period analyzed by the Brazilian government.

Why does this matter? The surplus increases the availability of foreign currency, but its structural strength depends on the composition of exports and on Brazil's ability to capture value in global value chains.

Treasury Direct Records Strong Investment

Investments in [Treasury Direct](#) reached R\$15 billion in August, the highest monthly volume in the historical series, distributed across more than 1.3 million transactions. However, redemptions and maturities totaled R\$17.22 billion, producing negative net issuance. Investments of up to R\$1,000 accounted for 55.7% of transactions, while the average investment remained above R\$11,000.

Why does this matter? The expansion of domestic financing strengthens state fiscal capacity and reduces relative dependence on foreign capital, although financial flows continue to constrain the margins of national economic autonomy.

Economy, Trade and Investment

Government Lowers GDP Growth Forecast

The Secretariat for Economic Policy reduced its forecast for [Brazilian GDP](#) growth from 2.3% to 2.0% in 2026 and from 2.5% to 2.3% in 2027. The revision mainly reflected weaker expectations for services and industry, partially offset by stronger agricultural performance. The estimates are included in the Macrofiscal Bulletin released in September by Brazil's Ministry of Finance.

Why does this matter? Slower growth limits resources and the capacity for economic projection, while greater dependence on primary sectors may preserve peripheral positions within the productive hierarchies of the world system.

Brazil and the United Kingdom Discuss Pricing

Representatives of Brazil's Ministry of Health and the [United Kingdom's NICE](#) exchanged experiences on technology incorporation and pricing negotiation models. The dialogue seeks to support the development of Brazil's price negotiation committee within the SUS by combining technology assessment, public purchasing power, and mechanisms that generate savings and expand Brazilian patients' access to innovative treatments.

Why does this matter? Strengthening public price negotiations expands state power vis-à-vis transnational pharmaceutical companies, reduces technological asymmetries, and improves national capacity to convert market power into social access.

France Offers New Trade Opportunities

An ApexBrasil study identified more than 400 opportunities for Brazilian exporters in [France](#), a market that imported approximately US\$799 billion in 2025. Bilateral trade reached around US\$10.3 billion, including US\$3.1 billion in Brazilian exports. Opportunities span food products, machinery, and chemicals, while French investment maintains a significant presence in the Brazilian economy and bilateral relations.

Why does this matter? France offers trade diversification and capital, but greater Brazilian structural power requires moving beyond commodities by expanding technology, value added, and domestic control over production.

Economy, Trade and Investment

Poland Opens 282 Trade Opportunities

ApexBrasil identified 282 trade opportunities for Brazilian exporters in [Poland](#), an economy of approximately US\$1 trillion and a population of 38 million. In 2025, bilateral trade reached US\$2.6 billion, including US\$1.55 billion in Brazilian exports. The study highlights opportunities in machinery, vehicles, aircraft, medicines, and food, as well as tariff changes associated with the Mercosur European Union agreement.

Why does this matter? The Polish market expands the range of alternatives within Europe and may reduce destination concentration, but structural autonomy requires more sophisticated Brazilian exports and reciprocal investment.

Brazilian ICT Companies Target Regional Markets

ApexBrasil conducted an information and communications technology export mission in [Chile and Colombia](#), aimed especially at small- and medium-sized Brazilian companies. The mission combined training, market immersion, technical visits, and business meetings. Participating companies operated in fintech, cybersecurity, logistics, retail, and software development, with Brazilian institutional support in both Latin American markets involved in the initiative.

Why does this matter? Internationalizing digital services moves Brazil into higher-value segments, diversifies markets, and strengthens technological capabilities that can reduce dependence on global knowledge structures.

Brazil Uses Uruguay's Quota in China

[Uruguay authorized Brazil](#) to use part of its unused beef export quota to China. The measure followed Beijing's imposition of an additional 55% tariff on volumes exceeding national quotas. Brazil had already used most of its own quota, putting pressure on Brazilian meatpackers' access to the world's largest international market for beef.

Why does this matter? The arrangement preserves access to Brazil's main beef market, but it also shows how the rules set by major buyers shape trade flows and exporters' bargaining power.

Economy, Trade and Investment

Brazil Delays Reciprocity Against the United States

Lula stated that Brazil will not, for the time being, invoke the [Reciprocity Law](#) against tariffs imposed by the United States while bilateral negotiations continue. According to the president, the instrument may be used if dialogue fails. Washington had announced additional tariffs on Brazilian products, creating a new source of trade and diplomatic tension between the two countries during the current negotiations.

Why does this matter? The dispute highlights asymmetries in economic and commercial power, while maintaining dialogue without abandoning reciprocity preserves Brazil's margin of autonomy vis-à-vis the United States.

Energy and Infrastructure

Brazil Prepares for eVTOL Operations

The Brazilian government advanced regulatory and infrastructure preparations for electric vertical takeoff and landing [aircraft operations](#). The Ministry of Ports and Airports, ANAC, DECEA, and Eve discussed certification, vertiports, energy supply, safety, and airspace integration. The stated expectation is to enable commercial operations beginning in 2028, following certification and adequate preparation of the aviation ecosystem.

Why does this matter? Electric air mobility connects infrastructure, technology, and regulation, areas of structural power capable of determining who controls new markets, technical standards, and global chains.

Major Groups Show Interest in the Western Railway Network

The concession process for the [Malha Oeste](#) railway, approximately 1,600 kilometers long, attracted interest from major business groups. ANTT expects to publish the tender notice in 2026 and hold the auction in the first half of 2027. Full recovery requires substantial investment, while mining and pulp appear among the main cargoes capable of making future railway operations economically viable.

Why does this matter? Railways expand territorial integration and market access, while more efficient logistics corridors reduce costs and strengthen Brazil's position in global chains.

Energy and Infrastructure

North-South Railway Terminals Head to Auction

The Ministry of Transportation published notices for the auction of five railway terminals linked to the [North-South Railway](#) and managed by Infra S.A. The projects cover approximately 29 hectares and call for investments exceeding R\$90 million. The auction is scheduled for December, while existing contracts are approaching expiration, requiring a new operational framework for these important national logistics assets.

Why does this matter? Railway terminals connect production to foreign markets. Their efficiency, therefore, influences systemic costs, export competitiveness, and Brazil's ability to control the infrastructure essential to the movement of goods.

Biofuels Advance in the Global Market

[Global biofuel production](#) could increase by nearly 70% by 2030, driven by blending mandates and energy concerns following the Gulf crisis. However, expansion may require a sharp increase in agricultural land use, raising risks of food insecurity and deforestation, particularly when energy feedstocks compete with products intended for human and animal consumption internationally.

Why does this matter? The race for biofuels redistributes energy power and territorial demand, but it can also transfer environmental and food-related costs to peripheral suppliers of biomass and natural resources.

Petrobras Prepares New Wells in the Amazon Mouth Basin

[Petrobras](#) plans to position a drilling rig in the Amazon Mouth Basin in January to drill three new exploratory wells. The initiative follows environmental authorization for activities in the region. The work should provide essential information on the commercial potential of discoveries, making the Equatorial Margin an important frontier for the company's exploration strategy and for Brazil's energy future.

Why does this matter? New reserves may expand energy security and state revenues, but they also reinforce tensions between fossil power, climate transition, and strategic control over resources in the global economy.

Energy and Infrastructure

Halliburton Expands Presence in Venezuela

Halliburton signed memoranda of understanding with Eneva and WESCA to pursue opportunities in [Venezuelan oil and gas projects](#). With Eneva, it intends to identify development possibilities, while with WESCA it will support field evaluation and planning. The agreements come as companies once again examine investments to increase production and restore Venezuela's energy infrastructure after years of underinvestment.

Why does this matter? Venezuela's reopening reorganizes access to strategic reserves, bringing Brazilian and American capital closer to energy infrastructure whose control influences regional power and security of supply.

Technology and Defense

Redata Supports Data Centers in Brazil

The enactment of [Redata](#) reduced the estimated cost gap between installing data centers in Brazil and in the United States, according to a study cited in the report. An artificial intelligence-focused project could mobilize billions in investment. However, expansion also depends on energy availability, grid connection, state taxation, and regulatory conditions that can sustain new technology projects.

Why does this matter? Data centers reinforce knowledge infrastructure and may reduce technological dependence, although energy, capital, and platforms remain concentrated among major global actors.

Critical Minerals and Rare Earths

Homer A Reveals Heavy Rare Earths

[Rare Earths Americas](#) released initial drilling results from the Homer A project in Goiás. One hole intersected a mineralized interval with significant concentrations of rare earth oxides and scandium, including a substantial share of heavy elements. However, the project remains exploratory, with no formally estimated mineral resource, sufficient evidence of metallurgical recovery, or demonstration of commercial economic viability.

Why does this matter? The results reinforce Brazil's potential in strategic inputs, but structural power will depend on transforming resources into processing capacity, technology, financing, and control over global chains.

Critical Minerals and Rare Earths

Morro do Ferro Expands Exploration Target

Power Minerals defined an initial exploration target for the Morro do Ferro project, estimating that it contains millions of tons of material with high concentrations of rare earth oxides. The model uses results from numerous drill holes and will guide future drilling campaigns. The company later intends to advance toward an inaugural resource estimate, a necessary step for understanding scale, continuity, and economic mineral potential.

Why does this matter? High-grade targets increase Brazil's relevance, but converting geology into power requires technological mastery, local processing, and negotiating capacity vis-à-vis companies and foreign consumers.

Deal Intensifies the Race in Poços de Caldas

Rare Earths Americas completed a transaction involving rare earth mining rights in Poços de Caldas, Minas Gerais, for approximately US\$5 million. The transaction covers hundreds of hectares and several mining titles, with payment made in part in shares. Following preliminary work, the company intends to transfer the rights and proceed with further drilling to better evaluate the acquired assets.

Why does this matter? Asset transfers highlight growing competition for reserves, while converting those resources into structural power depends on processing, technology, public revenue, and domestic governance.

Origen Acquires Stake in Campo de Cima

Origen Resources decided to acquire a majority stake in the Campo de Cima project, located between Piauí and Bahia. Due diligence identified an extensive anomalous area associated with rare earths. The agreement provides for payments, share issuance, exploration investment, the subsequent creation of a joint venture, and royalty payments to the seller, combining foreign capital with expanded Brazilian mineral exploration.

Why does this matter? Foreign capital accelerates exploration, but ownership, technology, and royalties will determine how much value remains in Brazil within higher-value global critical mineral chains.

Critical Minerals and Rare Earths

Novo Cruzeiro Reveals Multiple Metals

Atlantico reported identifying gallium, rare earths, titanium, niobium, and vanadium in samples collected from the [Novo Cruzeiro project](#) in Minas Gerais. Analyses indicated associations between gallium and other strategically important industrial metals. However, the results come from surface sampling and remain exploratory, requiring further geological investigation before any conclusion can be drawn regarding scale or economic viability.

Why does this matter? Associated strategic metals expand economic optionality, but structural power only emerges when resources are converted into reserves, domestic processing, technology, and higher value industrial integration.

Human Rights

Brazil Calls for Equitable Access in Pandemics

At the [United Nations](#), Brazil defended equitable access to vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, and other technologies as a central element of preparation for future pandemics. Brazil's position emphasized stronger public health systems, regional production, technology transfer, and trust-based communication. The government also highlighted combating disinformation as a necessary component of more effective, coordinated, and inclusive international health responses.

Why does this matter? Health exposes structural inequalities between core and periphery, while regional production and technology transfer can expand capabilities and reduce dependence on dominant suppliers during health crises.

Brazil Defends Strong Public Systems Against HIV

During a [United Nations](#) meeting, Brazil defended strong public systems, international cooperation, and social participation as essential to expanding the response to HIV. The delegation presented the SUS experience, including free treatment, prevention, and diagnosis. Brazil argued that inclusive policies, adequate financing, and continued access to services are essential to producing lasting responses and reducing health inequalities.

Why does this matter? Strong public systems expand autonomy vis-à-vis pharmaceutical markets and transform state capacity into social protection, reducing inequalities reproduced through the global distribution of health resources.

Human Rights

Brazil Presents Indigenous Health Model in Mexico

Brazil's Ministry of Health presented the Indigenous Health Care Subsystem in [Mexico](#), which is integrated into the SUS and serves hundreds of thousands of Indigenous Brazilians. The experience emphasizes primary care, equity, respect for cultural specificities, active listening, and participation by Indigenous peoples. The exchange sought to share Brazilian practices for organizing services targeted to these specific populations.

Why does this matter? Including Indigenous peoples in health governance confronts internal inequalities within the world system, while territorially based public capacity reduces exclusions produced by persistent economic, social, and institutional hierarchies.

Alliance Expands Fight Against Hunger

[Brazil and Spain](#), co-chairs of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, brought together governments, international organizations, and financial institutions in New York. The meeting discussed financing and policy implementation to accelerate results through 2030. Representatives of multilateral institutions and national authorities participated, seeking to mobilize resources, coordinate politically, and deploy instruments to address hunger and poverty internationally.

Why does this matter? Combating hunger requires redistributing resources and financing within an unequal system. In this context, multilateral coalitions can amplify peripheral voices and pressure structures that concentrate wealth and opportunities globally.

Tourism and Culture

Tourism Seeks New Credit Instruments

Brazil's Ministry of Tourism and the [Inter American Development Bank](#) opened a selection process to hire specialized consulting services in financial markets and development instruments. The work will assess credit supply and demand in tourism and propose competitive, sustainable, climate-resilient solutions. The initiative seeks to improve financing conditions for companies, projects, and investments linked to Brazil's tourism sector.

Why does this matter? Credit determines which territories and companies can invest. Expanding financial instruments can therefore strengthen tourism capacity, provided financing reduces dependence and distributes benefits economically and territorially.

International Cooperation

Brazil and Egypt Cooperate on Childhood Policies

Brazil and Egypt held a technical meeting to exchange experiences on policies for children and adolescents. The agenda addressed mental health and psychosocial support in particular, bringing together representatives of Brazilian institutions and Egyptian authorities. The meeting is part of a bilateral effort to share public policies, institutional capabilities, and protection practices for children and adolescents in both countries.

Why does this matter? South-South cooperation spreads public capabilities without relying exclusively on traditional centers, expanding institutional autonomy and horizontal knowledge circulation within the hierarchies of the world system.

Health Ministry Expands International Cooperation

Brazil's Ministry of Health expanded its international presence through cooperation initiatives involving countries across the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Missions and exchanges in different countries addressed professional training, workforce management, innovation, and health system organization. The strategy seeks to share the SUS experience and deepen technical partnerships between Brazilian institutions and foreign governments.

Why does this matter? Projecting SUS expertise turns public policy into a diplomatic resource, expands networks, and diversifies sources of learning, reducing institutional dependence on traditional centers of health expertise.

Brazil and Egypt Discuss Mental Health

An Egyptian delegation conducted a technical visit to Brazil to learn from experiences related to the mental health of children and adolescents. The initiative is part of cooperation among Brazil, Egypt, and UNICEF and responds to Egypt's interest in establishing a specialized national center. The program brought together government representatives, civil society, and diplomats, promoting exchanges of institutional experiences and practices.

Why does this matter? Triangular cooperation converts Brazilian capacity into knowledge, strengthening partners' autonomy and alternative networks for expertise flows, rather than those controlled by the centers of the world system.

International Cooperation

Brazil Defends Regional Medicine Production

During the [United Nations High-Level Week](#), Brazil defended regional production and equitable access to medicines in debates on African leadership and the manufacturing of technologies against AIDS and future pandemics. The delegation highlighted international cooperation, productive capacity, and experience sharing, arguing that producing closer to consumer markets can reduce vulnerabilities and inequalities in access to health technologies.

Why does this matter? Regional pharmaceutical production shifts power away from chains concentrated in the core, expands health autonomy, and builds industrial capabilities that can reduce external vulnerabilities during global crises.

Brazil and Mexico Advance Health Technology Cooperation

[Brazil and Mexico](#) discussed joint platforms for the development and production of health technologies, including messenger RNA vaccines. The dialogue involves scientific institutions and health authorities from both countries and builds on previous understandings. Planned initiatives include joint research, technology transfer, researcher exchanges, training, seminars, and financing mechanisms to expand national productive capabilities.

Why does this matter? Regional technological cooperation reduces dependence on pharmaceutical centers, expands Latin American productive capacity, and strengthens control over strategic knowledge, a central element of contemporary global structural power.

Environment and Sustainability

Brazil Proposes Protocol Against Environmental Crimes

Brazil convened ministers in New York to discuss a proposed additional protocol to the [United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#) dedicated to environmental crimes. The initiative seeks to harmonize criminalization and facilitate extradition, legal assistance, joint investigations, and asset recovery. The proposal aims to strengthen international instruments for confronting criminal networks involved in the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

Why does this matter? Environmental crimes connect peripheral resources to transnational networks. In this context, common rules can strengthen supplier states against illicit flows that drain wealth, biodiversity, and national regulatory capacity.

Environment and Sustainability

Circular Economy Gains Ground at the WTO

ApexBrasil and Brazil's representation to the [WTO](#) promoted a debate in Geneva on services associated with an inclusive circular economy. Companies, startups, and organizations presented solutions involving technology, financing, waste reuse, and new markets. Brazilian experiences showed how circular models can combine value creation, innovation, sustainability, economic inclusion, and greater resilience across different production chains.

Why does this matter? Circularity can reposition supplier countries by transforming waste into value and knowledge. However, structural gains depend on technology, financing, and access to the most competitive global markets.

Manaus Faces Severe Air Pollution

[Manaus](#) recorded extremely high levels of particulate matter as wildfire smoke covered the region. Amazonas accumulated thousands of fire hotspots in September and registered significant growth compared with the previous year. Deteriorating air quality increased risks particularly for children, older adults, and people living near fires, highlighting the direct health consequences of intensifying wildfires.

Why does this matter? The crisis shows how environmental costs fall on local populations, while territorial activities and forest governance influence resources, climate, and Brazil's global negotiating power.

Mombak Expands Reforestation Fund

[Mombak](#) completed the first closing of its second fund dedicated to Amazon reforestation, with a target of US\$150 million, and secured financing from the Climate Fund through BNDES. Salesforce became a buyer of carbon removal credits. The company already manages another fund and maintains projects involving farms and the planting of millions of native trees.

Why does this matter? Climate capital transforms forests into financial assets, making it essential to ensure that financing, credits, and economic benefits remain linked to Brazilian territory and interests.

Environment and Sustainability

Lula Combines Oil and Climate Policy

In an environmental speech at the [United Nations](#), Lula reaffirmed climate commitments but stated that Brazil will continue exploring for new oil reserves, including along the Equatorial Margin. The president linked development to emissions reductions, defended energy self-sufficiency, and highlighted actions against deforestation. He also stated that critical minerals must deliver domestic benefits and mentioned efforts to reduce dependence on fossil fuels gradually.

Why does this matter? The position exposes tensions between fossil fuel revenues and the energy transition. Controlling resources expands autonomy, but global climate standards also shape financing, legitimacy, and foreign markets.

Diplomacy

Brazil Supports International Panel on Inequality

[Brazil, Norway, South Africa, and Spain](#) convened a high-level meeting in New York on the proposed creation of an International Panel on Inequality. Heads of state, ministers, and representatives of international organizations discussed ways to generate evidence and guide policy to address the concentration of income and wealth. The meeting sought to expand international political support for the initiative during the General Assembly.

Why does this matter? Inequality reflects hierarchies within the world system, and producing knowledge about its mechanisms can strengthen coalitions capable of confronting structures that concentrate economic, productive, and political power.

Brazil and Lithuania Expand Academic Cooperation

Mauro Vieira met in New York with [Lithuanian Foreign Minister](#) Kęstutis Budrys and signed an agreement on cooperation in education and research. The instrument provides for exchanges of students, professors, researchers, and specialists; joint initiatives between universities and research centers; exchanges of information and experience; stronger cooperation among research groups; and greater academic mobility between the two countries.

Why does this matter? The agreement expands knowledge and mobility networks, strengthening national scientific capabilities and diversifying European ties within an international system marked by persistent technological asymmetries.

Diplomacy

IBSA Calls for Reform of Global Governance

At the 14th [IBSA](#) Ministerial Meeting, Brazil, South Africa, and India reaffirmed their commitment to political coordination, trilateral cooperation, and support for developing countries through the IBSA Fund. The ministers criticized attacks on multilateralism, denounced violations of the United Nations Charter, and called for urgent reform of global governance, including the United Nations and the Security Council, on more representative foundations.

Why does this matter? IBSA strengthens political coordination within the Global South, expands collective capacity to challenge institutional asymmetries, and presses for a redistribution of power in contemporary global governance.

Brazil Reaffirms Support for UNRWA

Brazil participated in a ministerial meeting in support of [UNRWA](#), the United Nations agency responsible for assisting Palestinian refugees. The meeting brought together officials and international representatives amid the institution's financial and political difficulties. The Brazilian government reaffirmed its support for the continuation of the agency's humanitarian activities and for preserving multilateral mechanisms that serve the Palestinian population in the Middle East.

Why does this matter? Sustaining UNRWA entails disputes over resources, legitimacy, and capacity within an asymmetric order, while preserving multilateral protection

Brazil and the Netherlands Expand Partnership

[Brazil and the Netherlands](#) established a Strategic Cooperation Framework designed to deepen bilateral relations and coordination on multilateral issues. The instrument covers trade, climate change, human rights, security, and other areas of shared interest. The initiative seeks to establish priorities, create mechanisms for dialogue, and expand coordination between the two governments on strategically important economic, political, and international agendas.

Why does this matter? Diversified partnerships expand Brazil's diplomatic options among centers of power, allowing it to combine trade, climate, and security without concentrating strategic dependence on a single foreign power.

Diplomacy

Brazil and Denmark Define Strategic Partnership

Brazil and Denmark established a Strategic Partnership Dialogue for the period 2026 to 2031. The instrument organizes bilateral cooperation around four pillars: climate, biodiversity, and deforestation; sustainable and efficient societies; democracy, peace, and security; and international cooperation and economic relations. The agreement seeks to provide continuity and greater predictability to collaboration between the two countries in priority areas.

Why does this matter? The partnership connects environmental resources, the economy, and governance, diversifying Brazilian alliances and expanding its capacity to negotiate simultaneously with technological and financial centers of the international system.

Countries Reinforce International Humanitarian Law

Brazil, South Africa, Kazakhstan, China, France, and Jordan reaffirmed their support for the global initiative to strengthen political commitment to international humanitarian law. The group highlighted the human costs of conflicts and the need to give greater priority to existing norms. The initiative is expected to culminate in an international conference designed to consolidate recommendations and expand political support among governments.

Why does this matter? Strengthening humanitarian norms limits the unequal use of force by creating collective constraints on powerful states and expanding normative instruments available to relatively less influential countries globally.

Coalition Reinforces Defense of Multilateralism

Brazil participated in the launch of Partners for Multilateralism, an initiative presented during the United Nations General Assembly. The declaration reaffirms international cooperation, international law, peace, inclusive prosperity, and reform of multilateral institutions. It also addresses trade, financial architecture, supply chains, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, climate, and health as areas requiring coordinated responses among countries.

Why does this matter? Multilateral coalitions dilute the decision-making power of major powers, but their structural effectiveness depends on reforms to institutions, financing, and the rules governing markets, technology, and security.

Diplomacy

Lula Rejects Intervention Against Organized Crime

At the [United Nations General Assembly](#), Lula stated that Brazil needs international cooperation rather than intervention to confront organized crime. The president defended sovereignty, democratic institutions, and coordination to disrupt flows of weapons and money. The statement came amid debates over regional security and United States initiatives related to the classification and targeting of Brazilian criminal organizations.

Why does this matter? By prioritizing cooperation over intervention, Brazil seeks to preserve sovereignty in the face of American military asymmetry, while recognizing that financial flows and weapons require coordinated transnational governance.

G4 Presses for Security Council Reform

The foreign ministers of the [G4](#), comprising Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan, called for rapid progress on reforming the United Nations Security Council. The group advocated expanding both permanent and nonpermanent categories and increasing representation for Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean. It also expressed concern over the slow pace of negotiations and reiterated its support for a text-based process.

Why does this matter? Reforming the Council would redistribute power entrenched since 1945, expand representation for underrepresented regions, and challenge a decision-making structure that concentrates security prerogatives in the hands of the permanent powers.

Over the past week, competition between the United States and China highlighted Brazil's position as an intermediate power subject to pressures involving trade, technology, energy, and security. The Brazilian economy maintained a trade surplus, expanded commercial alternatives, and, for the time being, refrained from invoking reciprocity against Washington. At the same time, Beijing remained essential to exports and strategic demand chains. From a world systems perspective, this dual dependence reveals a semiperipheral position with room for maneuver, but one still constrained by financial, technological, and commercial structures controlled by the major powers.

Rare earths have become the most sensitive point in this competition. New projects in Goiás, Minas Gerais, Piauí, and Bahia attracted foreign capital. They reinforced Brazil's mineral potential, but the ability to convert reserves into power depends on processing, technology, financing, and control of value chains. This issue becomes more significant because the Shield of the Americas links regional security, trusted suppliers, and critical minerals. In addition, the coalition led by Trump intends to present to the OAS a proposal for collective action against narcoterrorist organizations under the terms of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, thereby expanding the possibility of linking security, economic alignment, and the containment of the Chinese presence in the hemisphere.

This movement affects the environment surrounding Brazil's presidential election. Without determining electoral choices, foreign policy becomes part of the debate over sovereignty, alignments, defense, and relations with Washington and Beijing. The election outcome may redefine the degree of Brazilian adherence to hemispheric security initiatives and, consequently, affect margins of autonomy in military procurement, digital infrastructure, and minerals.

At the same time, the crises in Ukraine, the Hormuz Strait, and around Bab el-Mandeb reinforce the centrality of energy and maritime routes. The war between Russia and Ukraine continues to affect energy infrastructure, while instability involving Iran, Hormuz, and the Houthis puts pressure on oil prices, insurance, and freight costs. In this environment, diplomacy and economics become inseparable. Brazil seeks to expand coalitions, defend multilateral reforms, and diversify partners. Still, its autonomy will depend less on declared neutrality and more on its ability to transform resources, markets, and institutions into effective structural power.

For this reason, the current environment suggests that Brazil's vulnerability lies not only in choosing between rival poles but also in remaining a resource supplier without control over knowledge, logistics, credit, and technology. Competition between China and the United States creates opportunities, but it also raises the cost of decisions made under conditions of structural dependence.



Robson Cardoch Valdez – PhD

Latitude – Consultoria, Pesquisa e Análises
latituderelacoesinternacionais@gmail.com

Support:

