LATITUDE
RELAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS



WEEKLY REPORT

BRAZIL'S INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

NOV / 23

Decoding Brazilian Foreign Policy

Dear readers,

Brazil's international agenda over the past week combined trade expansion, diplomatic coordination, and competition over control of supply chains. Agribusiness exports reached US$16 billion in October, up 4.1% from a year earlier, with China the largest buyer. The first shipment of Brazilian beef to Ethiopia and closer ties with ASEAN created opportunities for diversification. Meanwhile, the postponement of a European vote on poultry and honey showed how regulatory decisions can shape market access.

Market access rules also framed talks with Washington. While Brazil waits for a formal U.S. proposal on tariffs, the Senate approved an increase of up to R$13.5 billion in credit under the Sovereign Brazil Plan. In Europe, Brazil and Spain cochaired the second anniversary of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty in Rome. Lula and Pedro Sánchez also discussed implementation of the Mercosur–European Union agreement during an official visit.

In critical minerals, competition over trade rules also involves control of productive assets. Brazil challenged Europe's review of the sale of Anglo American's Brazilian nickel operation to China's MMG. Meanwhile, talks with Germany on mineral processing moved forward, and Viridis received additional funding for its Colossus project. In Goiás, a buyer financed by Washington could take over Serra Verde's operations if the mine remains idle for more than 60 days.

On climate, Brazil submitted its transparency report to the UN, co-chaired the meeting with the United Kingdom that adopted a declaration on super-pollutants, and launched a fire management plan with Türkiye and South Korea. Canada also announced a 560 million Canadian dollar investment in the Tropical Forest Forever Facility, adding momentum to international efforts to fund forest conservation.

Taken together, these developments show how a broader range of partners gives Brazil more bargaining room. Turning that leverage into autonomy, however, depends on Brazil's ability to help shape market access rules, finance production, and develop processing technologies. Those capabilities influence where the value generated by Brazilian exports is captured.

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

Economy, Trade and Investment

Farm Output Estimated at R$1.46 Trillion

The October estimate of gross agricultural output reached R$1.46 trillion, up 0.62% from the previous month and down 2.6% from 2025. Growth in cattle production drove the monthly revision, while excessive rainfall and dry spells affected crops. For 2027, the Ministry of Agriculture projects a recovery in gross revenue, with an estimated increase of 2.6%.

Why does it matter? Agricultural specialization supports revenue and gives Brazil leverage in trade. Exposure to climate risks, however, affects what Brazil can supply and how reliably it can serve global supply chains.

Agribusiness Exports Rise 4.1%

Brazilian agribusiness exports totaled US$16 billion in October, up 4.1% from a year earlier, and accounted for 42.3% of the country's exports. Soybeans led shipments, while China remained the largest market. From January through October, the sector exported US$149.4 billion and posted a surplus of approximately US$132.3 billion, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Why does it matter? The surplus increases the supply of foreign currency. However, reliance on commodities and a handful of major buyers leaves some bargaining power with the largest importing economies.

Brazilian Beef Arrives in Ethiopia

Ethiopia received its first shipment of Brazilian beef in Addis Ababa on November 12, following the opening of its market in April. The shipment followed negotiations on an international health certificate. The agreement authorized exports of 17 Brazilian agricultural products, and the arrival of the beef marked the culmination of talks supported by the Brazilian embassy and its agricultural attaché.

Why does it matter? Opening African markets gives exporters a broader range of destinations. Negotiating health requirements also gives countries a way to use regulatory expertise to secure market access for their exporters.

Economy, Trade and Investment

7. Trade Mission Connects Brazilian Exporters with Canadian Retailers

Brazilian companies took part in a trade mission to Toronto on November 9 and 10 to pitch food products to Canadian retailers for sale under their private labels. The program included business meetings and site visits. The agricultural attaché's office explained sanitary, phytosanitary, and trade requirements, while specialists discussed consumer habits and retail strategies.

Why does it matter? Supplying Canadian chains expands market access. However, retailers control branding, distribution, and standards, which affects how much income Brazilian producers ultimately receive.

8. European Union Postpones Vote on Poultry and Honey

Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture expressed concern over the postponement of an EU vote on restoring Brazil to the list of authorized exporters of poultry meat and honey. The ministry said Brazil had submitted the requested documentation and hosted an audit that found its antimicrobial controls adequate. It is awaiting official information before deciding how to proceed.

Why does it matter? The EU exercises regulatory power by deciding which suppliers can enter its market. Even when exporters meet technical requirements, their market access still depends on decisions made abroad.

11. Government and Industry Discuss Trade Remedies

On November 18, the Ministry of Development and the National Confederation of Industry held the second technical meeting of their working group on trade remedies. The meeting concluded a phase of talks that began in September. Industry groups presented assessments and proposals, and the ministry answered their questions. The confederation will compile their input for federal review.

Why does it matter? Trade remedies allow governments to intervene in the conditions under which companies compete. How Brazil designs those tools affects its industry's ability to compete where producers face unequal conditions.

Economy, Trade and Investment

12. Brazil Implements Regional Cosmetics Agreement

On November 17, Brazil published the decree implementing an agreement under the Latin American Integration Association to reduce technical barriers to trade in cosmetics, personal care products, and fragrances. Brazil was the first of eight participants to complete its domestic procedures. The agreement eliminates the Certificate of Free Sale requirement, brings labeling rules closer together, and keeps tariffs in place.

Why does it matter? Aligning regulations lowers market entry costs and gives manufacturers room to operate at greater scale. It also gives participating countries more scope to establish common trade rules.

13. Brazil's Total Trade Tops US$14 Billion

In the second week of November, Brazil's total trade reached US$14.2 billion, with exports of US$8.09 billion, imports of US$6.1 billion, and a surplus of US$2 billion. The surplus reached US$3.3 billion for the month to date. For the year to date, total trade reached US$600 billion and the surplus stood at US$74.3 billion, according to official data.

Why does it matter? A trade surplus increases the supply of foreign currency and gives Brazil more room to make decisions on its external economic policy. How long that lasts depends on demand and the composition of exports.

31. Egypt Opens Opportunities for Brazilian Natural Stone

A mission to Egypt by Centrorochas and ApexBrasil found interest in direct imports of Brazilian stone and in processing partnerships aimed at the Middle East. The program included site visits, business meetings, and participation in Stone Africa in Cairo. Sales to Egypt totaled US$318,600 from January through September, up 263.3%, with Brazilian quartzite a standout.

Why does it matter? Direct purchases can reduce reliance on foreign distributors. Where the stone is processed will help determine how much value Brazil and Egypt each capture along the export chain.

Economy, Trade and Investment

ApexBrasil Identifies Opportunities in Vietnam

ApexBrasil updated its Vietnam Trade and Investment Profile and identified 262 opportunities for Brazilian products, including food, chemicals, manufactured goods, machinery, and equipment. Corn, cotton, and soybeans account for about 55% of Brazilian exports to Vietnam. The study highlights zero tariffs on selected products and opportunities arising from negotiations on preferential trade terms with Mercosur.

Why does it matter? Market research makes it easier for exporters to find the information they need. Identifying demand for industrial goods could help Brazil diversify its exports to Vietnam, which are concentrated in agricultural products.

Brazil and ASEAN Discuss Closer Integration in Manila

Brazilian government and private sector representatives launched a joint sector planning initiative with ASEAN in Manila on the sidelines of the bloc's leaders' summit. The business event brought together government officials, trade promotion agencies, and companies to strengthen trade and industrial ties. The program included sessions on Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as discussions on supply chains.

Why does it matter? Closer ties with ASEAN give Brazil a wider range of partners and better access to Asian supply chains. That expands its investment options and strengthens its bargaining position with competitors.

Energy and Infrastructure

Brazil and India Expand Energy Talks

Brazil and India discussed opportunities in oil, natural gas, and biofuels at the second meeting of their joint working groups on November 19. The agenda covered oil trade, investment in exploration, gas infrastructure, and sustainable fuel technologies. The two countries, which cochair the Global Biofuels Alliance's council, also discussed certification, financing, and bringing more countries into the alliance.

Why does it matter? A wider range of partners creates more opportunities for investment and trade. Working together on biofuels also gives both countries a voice in setting standards that shape market access.

Technology and Defense

Brazil's Institutional Security Office to Attend Defense Expo

Brazil's Institutional Security Office will take part in the ninth BID Brazil Expo in Brasília from November 24 to 26. Its staff will explain security clearance procedures and opportunities related to agreements on classified information. The office will also join a panel on military procurement. Brazil and Cyprus are expected to sign an agreement on protecting classified information.

Why does it matter? Access to classified information determines who can take part in strategic projects. Security clearance rules therefore influence Brazil's position in defense supply chains.

Critical Minerals and Rare Earths

Brazil and Germany Discuss Critical Minerals

Brazil's Ministry of Mines and Energy met with German specialists in Brasília to discuss research, development, and innovation in critical minerals, particularly rare earths. Participants covered sustainable mining, hydrometallurgy, processing, and industrial applications. The ministry emphasized processing minerals in Brazil. The meeting built on a bilateral declaration signed in Hanover in April.

Why does it matter? Control over processing concentrates value and influence in mineral supply chains. Cooperation can expand Brazil's industrial capacity if it helps spread these technologies within the country.

Brazil Challenges EU Review of Nickel Sale

Brazil sent a letter to the European Commission contesting its review of Anglo American's sale of its Brazilian nickel operation to China's MMG, a deal valued at US$500 million, according to two people familiar with the matter. Brazil's antitrust regulator, Cade, did not oppose the deal. The EU is concerned that the sale could redirect ferronickel to China and reduce supplies for European steelmakers.

Why does it matter? The European review illustrates how regulatory power can extend beyond a jurisdiction's borders. By challenging it, Brazil seeks to retain authority over assets tied to interdependent global supply chains.

Critical Minerals and Rare Earths

Viridis Receives Additional Funding for Colossus

Viridis received the second US$5 million installment under a US$30 million agreement with ORE Investments and Régia Capital. It issued shares to settle the investment by the Brazilian critical minerals fund backed by Vale and BNDESPar. The funding supports the Colossus rare earth project, where Viridis plans to begin commercial production in 2028.

Why does it matter? Domestic capital expands financing options for mining. Brazil's bargaining position with foreign buyers, however, also depends on developing rare earth separation capacity at home.

Industry Expects Decree on Minerals Screening

According to the Critical Minerals Association, the government has signaled that it intends to issue regulations in 2026 for screening investments and transactions involving critical and strategic minerals. Law No. 15,506 provides for the screening mechanism. The regulations are expected to clarify which deals require council review, what documents must be submitted, and how the review process will work. The uncertainty concerns companies and investors.

Why does it matter? Screening gives the government a say in who owns strategic assets. Clear criteria can preserve its ability to make those decisions while keeping mining projects open to investment.

Company Announces Rare Earth Discovery at Pelé

Brazilian Rare Earths announced high-grade mineralization at its Pelé South target along a corridor stretching more than 2.5 kilometers. Among its drilling results, the company reported a six-meter interval from the surface grading 13.2% total rare earth oxides. Diamond drilling is underway to test the grade, thickness, and continuity of mineralization in the primary rock.

Why does it matter? The discovery adds to Brazil's geological prospects. Turning that potential into structural power depends on demonstrating viability and building domestic capacity to process and market the minerals.

Critical Minerals and Rare Earths

Contract Gives Buyer Conditional Right to Take Over Serra Verde Operations

US SIIE, a company financed by the U.S. government, signed a contract to buy output from the first phase of the Serra Verde rare earth mine in Goiás. The agreement gives the buyer the right to take over operations if the mine remains idle for more than 60 days, a provision intended to protect supplies for the U.S. market.

Why does it matter? The buyer's rights extend beyond purchasing output. If the mine shuts down, U.S. supply security could determine who runs it.

Human Rights

Brazil Acknowledges Violations in Luiza Melinho Case

Before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Brazil acknowledged violations of Luiza Melinho's rights to judicial guarantees, judicial protection, honor, and dignity. The case concerns the denial of gender-affirming surgery through Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS) in 1998 and delays in court. The acknowledgment did not extend to violations of the rights to health or personal integrity. The case remains pending.

Why does it matter? Inter-American oversight gives individuals more scope to challenge government inaction. It also changes who has the authority to define and enforce rights across the region.

Brazil Makes Commitments to Combat Child Marriage

Brazil announced ten child protection commitments at a ministerial conference in Manila, including national guidelines to address sexual violence associated with child marriage. The measure prioritizes children under 14 in unions with people over 18. The guidelines are expected between 2026 and 2027, with implementation, monitoring, and evaluation planned through 2030.

Why does it matter? Multilateral commitments tie domestic policy to international protection standards. Implementing them can change the power dynamics that expose girls to violence and dependence.

Human Rights

Racial Equity on the Climate Agenda

At COP31 in Antalya, Minister of Racial Equality Rachel Barros called for action against environmental racism and advocated for quilombola communities, African-rooted and terreiro religious communities, and residents of underserved urban areas to take part in climate decisions. Brazil's delegation highlighted progress on quilombola land titling and joined discussions on urban peripheries, resilient infrastructure, and community input into adaptation policy.

Why does it matter? Community participation gives people exposed to the greatest risks a greater say in setting climate priorities, allocating adaptation funding, and deciding how their land is used.

Tourism and Culture

Brazil Presents Cultura Viva in the Azores

Brazil's Ministry of Culture presented its National Cultura Viva Policy at an international conference on cultural rights in Ponta Delgada, in the Azores, on November 10 and 11. Secretary Márcia Rollemberg highlighted the recognition of community initiatives as Points of Culture. She also invited Portugal to join IberCultura Viva, the regional cooperation program she chairs.

Why does it matter? Sharing community-based cultural policies abroad extends Brazil's influence. Recognizing the communities that create culture also changes who has a say in defining cultural heritage.

International Cooperation

Caminhos Amefricanos Brings Partners Together on Racial Justice

Brasília hosted a seminar on international cooperation for racial justice on November 16 and 17. The event brought together African, Latin American, and Caribbean partners in Caminhos Amefricanos, a program that organizes exchanges for Black or quilombola students in teacher education programs and for Black or quilombola teachers. The discussions will inform a document proposing ways to promote equality and combat discrimination across the Global South.

Why does it matter? Exchanges among Global South institutions bring more perspectives into the production and circulation of knowledge. They help those institutions develop policies informed by their own experience.

International Cooperation

Mercosur Signs Regional Health Agreement

Health ministers from Mercosur and associated countries met in Montevideo on November 20. They signed an agreement on water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management in healthcare facilities, with provisions for a regional assessment and training. They also agreed on next steps for tobacco and nicotine advertising, community-based mental healthcare, digital health, and the protection of sensitive personal data.

Why does it matter? Regional health cooperation helps countries pool expertise and resources. Common rules give them more leverage when negotiating technology standards and help them improve services in border areas.

Mercosur Discusses Recognition of Qualifications

Mercosur labor ministers discussed regional recognition of professional credentials. Luiz Marinho backed a tripartite roadmap with support from the International Labour Organization and highlighted Brazil's gradual shift from a six-day workweek with one day off to a five-day workweek with two days off. The meeting issued a statement on the Skills Passport, which aims to make qualifications more widely recognized and help workers move between countries.

Why does it matter? Recognizing qualifications can reduce barriers to worker mobility. Regional rules therefore influence who can get a job and the terms workers can negotiate when entering a new labor market.

Brazil Promulgates Antarctic Agreement with Chile

Brazil promulgated an Antarctic cooperation agreement signed with Chile in 2013 and approved by Congress in 2022. It provides for joint research projects, information sharing, exchanges of specialists, and cooperation on equipment and infrastructure. The two countries will also consider involving third parties and may seek additional funding to cover staffing and logistics.

Why does it matter? Sharing logistics and expertise makes Antarctic research easier to carry out. A sustained scientific presence gives Brazil and Chile a greater voice in decisions about the continent.

Environment and Sustainability

Brazil's Attorney General's Office Presents Climate Work at COP31

At COP31, Brazil's Office of the Attorney General presented Pronaclima, a unit established in 2023 to defend environmental policies and provide legal advice to the federal government. In Antalya, government attorney Teresa Villac discussed environmental education, protocols for communities and public authorities, and shared governance. The program also included plans for discussions with audit courts on oversight, coordination, and implementation of Brazil's climate policies.

Why does it matter? A government's legal capacity shapes its ability to carry out climate commitments. By sharing its experience, Brazil seeks a greater role in defining international climate practices.

Brazil Submits Climate Report to the UN

At COP31, Brazil submitted a document combining its Fifth National Communication and Second Biennial Transparency Report to the UN climate convention. It was the fourth country to submit its second report under the Paris Agreement's rules. The inventory shows that Brazil's emissions fell 27% from 2022 to 2024. The document also details targets and adaptation measures.

Why does it matter? Having its own climate data strengthens Brazil's ability to negotiate targets and funding. Producing information that others can verify also reduces its reliance on outside assessments.

Coalition Adopts Declaration on Super Pollutants

At COP31, Brazil and the United Kingdom cochaired the Climate and Clean Air Coalition meeting that adopted a declaration to accelerate reductions in methane and other super pollutants. It sets priorities through 2030 and calls for action in fossil fuels, agriculture, waste, transportation, and refrigeration. The meeting emphasized raising funds and implementing measures with measurable results.

Why does it matter? Those who set emissions reduction priorities influence where financing and technology go. Cochairing the meeting gives Brazil a say in how the measures are put into practice.

Environment and Sustainability

Brazil Co-Leads International Wildfire Plan

Brazil, Türkiye, and the Republic of Korea launched the Antalya Action Plan on Integrated Fire Management at COP31. The voluntary initiative promotes data and knowledge sharing, technical cooperation, and access to resources and technology to prevent and fight wildfires. Supported by a platform hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the plan focuses particularly on developing countries.

Why does it matter? Monitoring and prevention technologies are unevenly distributed. Making them easier to share gives countries with limited response capacity more scope to act on their own.

Brazil Calls for a Just Energy Transition

At COP31, Minister João Paulo Capobianco called for a transition away from fossil fuels through multilateral cooperation and community participation. He reaffirmed Brazil's commitment to completing its national plan by COP32 in 2027. The meeting also presented a green jobs report with recommendations on formal employment, social protection, training, and access to job opportunities.

Why does it matter? The rules of the transition determine who bears costs and where jobs and investment go. Public participation and multilateral coordination can give developing countries more influence over those decisions.

Brazil Implements Adjustments to the Montreal Protocol

The federal government published Decree No. 13,170 to implement adjustments to the Montreal Protocol concerning hydrochlorofluorocarbons, which deplete the ozone layer. The measures accelerate the phaseout of production and consumption of these substances. According to the government, the adjustments encourage adoption of alternative technologies and preserve access to technical and financial support from the Multilateral Fund.

Why does it matter? International environmental standards steer investment and encourage the adoption of new technologies. Pairing obligations with financing helps developing countries adapt their supply chains.

Diplomacy

Brazil Condemns Attacks That Hit Embassies

Brazil condemned the November 19 attacks on Kyiv, where debris struck the Brazilian, South African, Austrian, and Dutch embassies. The Brazilian mission reported no injuries or property damage. The government called for an end to hostilities, reiterated that diplomatic missions are inviolable and that civilians must be protected, and reaffirmed its support for a negotiated settlement.

Why does it matter? The inviolability of diplomatic missions keeps channels for negotiation open during wars. Respecting that protection preserves the ability of countries without military control over a conflict to participate in mediation.

Aleijadinho Exhibition at the Vatican Marks Diplomatic Bicentennial

The Vatican Museums are hosting an exhibition on Aleijadinho from November 18, 2026, through February 13, 2027, marking 200 years of diplomatic relations between Brazil and the Holy See. Original sculptures of Catholic saints by the artist are on display at the Vatican for the first time. The pieces underwent conservation and restoration in Brazil before traveling to the exhibition.

Why does it matter? The exhibition raises Brazil's profile through a major cultural institution. Taking Brazilian heritage abroad helps bring its artists and traditions greater international recognition.

Global Alliance Against Hunger Marks Two Years

The Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty marked its second anniversary on November 18. Brazil and Spain cochaired the celebration at FAO headquarters in Rome, where the Race to 2030 campaign was launched. Created during Brazil's G20 presidency, the initiative has 225 members, including 107 countries, and supports projects on food, production, and social protection.

Why does it matter? Bringing governments and funders together gives Brazil more influence over international social policy. Carrying out the programs depends on securing funding on a continuing basis.

Diplomacy

Canada Announces Investment in Tropical Forest Fund

Canada announced an initial investment of 560 million Canadian dollars in the Tropical Forest Forever Facility over four years. The pledge, announced when Lula met with Mark Carney in Manila, helped bring total announced commitments to US$8.3 billion. The facility pays for forest conservation and sets aside at least 20% for Indigenous peoples and traditional communities.

Why does it matter? The facility could give countries with tropical forests more financial flexibility. Its payment and governance rules will determine who controls the funds and what results are rewarded.

Lula Visits Spain

Lula made an official visit to Spain on November 16 and discussed bilateral, regional, and international issues with Pedro Sánchez, including implementation of the Mercosur–European Union agreement. The strategic partnership dates to 2003 and was renewed in 2024. Bilateral trade totaled US$12.6 billion in 2025, with a US$4.96 billion surplus for Brazil.

Why does it matter? Working with Spain gives Brazil more channels for negotiation in Europe. Trade and investment also give the partnership weight in shaping trade rules between the two regions.

Brazil Awaits a U.S. Trade Proposal

Minister Márcio Elias Rosa said Brazil is still waiting for a formal U.S. proposal on negotiating the Trump administration's tariffs. He expects any agreement to come during Lula's next term and ruled out making offers before learning what Washington wants. In parallel, the government is forming an interministerial group to examine possible reciprocal trade measures.

Why does it matter? The tariffs expose the unequal terms of access to the U.S. market. The option of taking reciprocal measures gives Brazil more bargaining room, although the impact would depend on the industries affected.

Diplomacy

Lula Discusses Calls with Trump, Xi, and Putin

Lula said he called Donald Trump, Xi Jinping, and Vladimir Putin to urge them to meet and discuss ending the violence. He recounted the calls after Mark Carney credited the Brazilian president with proposing the trilateral meeting. Lula said he did not know whether he was responsible for the meeting and criticized the conduct of powers with veto rights on the UN Security Council.

Why does it matter? The veto concentrates decision-making power among the major powers. Brazil's contacts can open channels for mediation, but binding decisions still depend on the structure of the Security Council.

National Congress

Senate Approves Expansion of Export Credit

The Senate approved a bill based on Provisional Measure No. 1,379 of 2026 and sent it to the president for signature. The measure increases funding for the Sovereign Brazil Plan by up to R$13.5 billion to support exporters affected by U.S. tariffs and conflicts in the Middle East. The bill is part of Brazil's response to disruptions affecting its exports.

Why does it matter? Public credit reduces exporters' exposure to decisions made abroad. Its effectiveness depends on how the financing supports production and helps exporters reach a wider range of markets.

Committee Summons Foreign Minister over Financial Crisis

The Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Affairs and National Defense Committee voted to summon Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira to explain delays in salary payments and transfers to embassies and consulates. The request from Representative Marcel van Hattem questions the ministry's budget management. According to the lawmaker, about 20 overseas posts were notified of delays. The committee has yet to confirm a date for Vieira's appearance.

Why does it matter? Diplomacy relies on steady funding. When overseas missions cannot count on operating funds, Brazil is less able to follow negotiations and defend its interests in foreign markets.

National Congress

Committee Approves Law Enforcement Agreement with India

The Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Affairs and National Defense Committee approved a Brazil–India agreement to combat international terrorism and transnational organized crime. Signed in 2025, it provides for sharing operational and forensic information, police assistance, training, and technology transfer. The committee also approved an agreement with Germany on protecting classified information.

Why does it matter? Access to law enforcement information and technology shapes how governments respond to transnational networks. Bilateral cooperation gives Brazil more ways to obtain those resources.

In Shenzhen, Donald Trump, Xi Jinping, and Vladimir Putin found areas where they could work together. At their November 19 meeting, the three agreed to discuss UN reform, increase the supply of refined petroleum products, and hold talks on nuclear risks. The war in Ukraine, however, was absent from their declaration, and the meeting ended without an announced ceasefire. Even so, by hosting Trump and Putin, Xi put Beijing at the center of a negotiation on international security.

China's ability to bring the two presidents together helps explain how cooperation can coexist with economic rivalry. Washington uses tariffs, financing, and technology to influence investment and set conditions for access to its market. Beijing, in turn, uses its demand for raw materials, industrial scale, and processing capacity to shape supply chains. Moscow retains influence through its nuclear arsenal, its Security Council veto, and its role in energy markets.

That rivalry is already reaching Brazil through trade and investment decisions. While awaiting a U.S. proposal on tariffs, Brasília is challenging Europe's review of the sale of Anglo American's Brazilian nickel operation to China's MMG. In Goiás, the buyer of Serra Verde's rare earths, financed by Washington, could take over operations if the mine remains idle for more than 60 days. Decisions made abroad can thus affect who controls Brazilian assets and where their output goes.

Brasília's contacts with the major powers give it room to defend its own interests. After Mark Carney credited Lula with proposing the meeting, the Brazilian president confirmed that he had called all three leaders to encourage dialogue. That same week, in condemning the attacks that hit embassies in Kyiv, Brazil reaffirmed the inviolability of diplomatic missions and called for a negotiated end to the war.

China remains the largest market for Brazilian agribusiness. Closer ties with ASEAN, therefore, give Brazil access to more potential buyers, while cooperation with Germany could strengthen mineral processing at home. With more buyers and greater industrial capacity of its own, Brazil has more room to negotiate supply terms, retain decision-making authority over strategic assets, and keep a larger share of the value generated by domestic production.

Robson Cardoch Valdez – PhD

L a t i t u d e – Consultoria, Pesquisa e Análises
latituderelacoesinternacionais@gmail.com

Support: