

# Roadmap for the Integration of South America

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**OCTOBER 5, 2023**

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**Brasilia Consensus**



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1. Gathered in Brasilia on May 30, 2023, the leaders of the 12 South American countries reaffirmed their commitment to reestablish regular dialogue to boost regional integration, promote cooperation, and project the voice of South America in the world. With this objective, the Brasilia Consensus, adopted during the meeting, established a contact group led by the Foreign Ministers of South America, tasked with evaluating the experiences of different regional cooperation mechanisms and establishing a Roadmap to strengthen this dialogue and South American integration.

2. In pursuit of this goal, various meetings were held among the 12 countries to identify priority areas of work and cooperation. The exchanges also explored possible formats to promote regular dialogue among the parties.

3. Regarding specific areas, considering the challenges faced by South America and in compliance with the mandates of South American leaders, the topics identified as the initial focus areas are the following (in alphabetical order):

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|------|-----------------------------------|
| i.   | Climate Change                    |
| ii.  | Combating Transnational Organized |
| iii. | Cross-Border Cooperation          |
| iv.  | Defense                           |
| v.   | Development Financing             |
| vi.  | Digital Connectivity              |
| vii. | Education and Culture             |

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|-------|----------------------------------|
| viii. | Energy                           |
| ix.   | Food Security                    |
| x.    | Gender                           |
| xi.   | Health                           |
| xii.  | Infrastructure and Transport     |
| xiii. | Migration                        |
| xiv.  | Natural Disaster Risk Management |
| xv.   | Productive Integration           |
| xvi.  | Social Development               |
| xvii. | Trade and Investment             |

4. In light of the principles and guidelines outlined in the Brasilia Consensus and with the aim of presenting a focused agenda, it was agreed to prioritize concrete initiatives with a positive impact on the living conditions of populations and that do not duplicate efforts already underway in other international or regional mechanisms in which South American States participate, to actively contribute to monitoring and consolidating such initiatives.

5. A mapping exercise was conducted on how these topics have been addressed by different regional organizations, which is included in Annex I of this document.

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6. On the other hand, considering the interest in further strengthening dialogue in specific areas to help identify concrete actions of mutual interest, the following preliminary schedule of sectorial meetings is proposed:

#### 6.1 September

- ✚ I Meeting of Health Ministers of South America  
*Nueva York, 21 de September de 2023*

#### 6.2 October

- ✚ Senior Officials Round Table on Development Financing  
*Virtual, October 25, 2023*

#### 6.3 November

- ✚ South American Technical Seminar on the New Infrastructure Agenda, on the margins of the Subgroup of Infrastructure of MERCOSUR  
*Brasilia, second week of November 2023*
- ✚ South American Defense and Foreign Ministers Meeting (2+2)  
*Brasilia, November 22, 2023*

7. The possibility of leveraging regional or extraregional events to strengthen South American dialogue and continue discussions on the implementation of the Brasilia Consensus will be explored. An indicative list of spaces that could be used for these purposes was included in this document as Annex II.

8. In order to promote the regular dialogue referred to in point 6 of the Brasilia Consensus among the States, a streamlined and flexible mechanism that does not involve the creation of new rigid institutional structures or permanent bodies is proposed.

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9. To enable proper monitoring of the initiatives to be agreed upon and to facilitate the identification of new areas of common interest, the implementation of the Brasilia Consensus could take place in the following format:

#### 9.1 Periodic Strategic Dialogues among Heads of State and Government

- ✚ Heads of State and Government will meet at least once a year. With the aim of fostering open and frank interactions on key regional issues and common challenges, in order to establish priorities and guidelines for deepening the process of regional integration and cooperation, efforts will be made to organize informal meetings in a retreat-style setting.

#### 9.2 Regular Meetings of Foreign Ministers

- ✚ Foreign Ministers of South America will have two regular meetings per year and will meet as many additional times as they deem necessary to assess the progress of integration, regional cooperation, and the status of implementation of the mandates given by leaders in their annual strategic dialogues.

#### 9.3 National Coordinator

- ✚ Each country will designate a lead national coordinator and a deputy national coordinator, who will act as focal points in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs to facilitate the monitoring of the process and the preparation of the meetings of the foreign ministers. Lead national coordinators and deputy national coordinators will hold regular meetings, including through virtual means.

#### 9.4 Rotating Presidencies

- ✚ Each country will coordinate the process on a rotating basis for a period of six months to facilitate the management of regular regional dialogue and the progress of sectorial initiatives.
- ✚ The acting presidency will coordinate with the successor country to facilitate the follow-up of initiatives and the organization of meetings. The two annual presidencies will co-chair the presidential strategic dialogues organized during the period.

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- ✚ The rotation of presidencies will follow the alphabetical order in the Spanish language.
  - ✚ If a country, *motu proprio*, considers it is not in a position to assume the rotating presidency, it may exchange its turn with the succeeding countries, following the alphabetical order in the Spanish language, provided that the parties agree.
  - ✚ At the end of each rotating presidency, the country performing the role will prepare an executive report on the progress of the South American dialogue integration process during the said period.

### 9.5 Contact Networks

- ✚ In order to intensify regional dialogue on the topics identified as priorities by the Presidents and to facilitate the identification of concrete initiatives, thematic focal points will be designated to promote regular exchange of experiences. If necessary, as determined by each sector, high-level ministerial meetings may be held for discussions on matters of common interest.

### 9.6 Cooperation with Regional and Extraregional Technical Institutions

- ✚ Whenever relevant, South American countries may invite institutions from the South American, Latin American, Caribbean, extraregional, and global areas to participate in specific meetings to support the implementation of projects and initiatives of common interest.

### 9.7 Extra Regional Dialogues

- ✚ Cooperation and dialogue with South American extra regional partners will be encouraged.

### 9.8 Informal Meetings

- ✚ Aiming at reinforcing initiatives of common interest and enhance the voice of South America in intergovernmental fora, efforts will be made to leverage international meetings to establish coordination with the aim of, if possible, articulating a common position and projecting South America on global issues.

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## 9.9 Decision-Making Process

- + Decisions or statements will be adopted by consensus.

10. The provisions of this Roadmap for the Integration of South America will be evaluated after one year.