

Joint Communiqué of the Presidents of MERCOSUR States Parties and Bolivia - LXIII MERCOSUR Summit

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | 7 December 2023

1. Background

The LXIII Summit of Presidents of MERCOSUR gathered the Heads of State of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia (accession in process) to take stock of integration progress and chart priorities for 2024. Brazil held the pro tempore presidency during the second half of 2023.

2. Economic & Trade Agenda

- **Common External Tariff (CET)** review mandate extended for one year to modernise the tariff structure.
- Commitment to implement the new **MERCOSUR Rules of Origin (ROM)** concluded in July 2023.
- Acceleration of work on customs facilitation, trade statistics (SECEM) and sector-specific issues (e.g. automotive, sugar, organic products).

3. Social, Health & Border Integration

- Endorsed universal, equitable access to health; launched the first MERCOSUR Epidemiological Bulletin.
- Highlighted joint positions in WHO pandemic-treaty negotiations.
- Stressed importance of the **Local Border Towns Agreement** to facilitate cross-border mobility and services.

4. Digital & Cybersecurity

- Welcomed progress on a MERCOSUR cooperation instrument on cybersecurity to enhance coordination and response.
- Noted efforts to map national digital-regulation frameworks and advance e-commerce agreement ratification.

5. External Relations & Trade Negotiations

- Signed the **MERCOSUR-Singapore Free Trade Agreement**, first with an Asia-Pacific partner.
- Reaffirmed commitment to conclude the **MERCOSUR-EU Association Agreement** and negotiations with EFTA.
- Advanced discussions with Chile, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and explored talks with El Salvador, Dominican Republic, UAE, Canada, Indonesia and Vietnam.

6. Key Outcomes & Commitments

- Strengthen democratic values, human-rights protection and social participation within MERCOSUR.
- Deepen regional energy integration (electricity, gas) and collaboration on critical minerals.
- Maintain the **FOCEM** structural-convergence fund and foster science, technology and innovation initiatives.

7. Sources & Further Reading

- Original communiqué (ES):
<https://cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/comunicado-conjunto-de-los-presidentes-de-los-estados-partes-del-mercosur-y>
- PDF version:
https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/userfiles/ut/comunicado_conjunto_mercosur_diciembre_2023.pdf