# MERCOSUR Presidents’ Joint Communiqué: Key Outcomes from the LXIII Summit in Rio de Janeiro, December 2023

**Date**: 2023-12-07

**Location**: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## Executive Summary

On December 7, 2023, the LXIII Summit of MERCOSUR Presidents convened in Rio de Janeiro, focusing on integration progress and future priorities. Key outcomes included the extension of the Common External Tariff review for modernization, commitment to implement new Rules of Origin, and advancements in customs facilitation and trade statistics. The summit emphasized universal health access, launching the first MERCOSUR Epidemiological Bulletin, and the importance of the Local Border Towns Agreement for cross-border mobility. Notably, the MERCOSUR-Singapore Free Trade Agreement was signed, marking a significant step in external relations. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to democratic values, human rights, and regional energy integration, while maintaining the FOCEM fund to support structural convergence and innovation initiatives.

## Characteristics

* The LXIII MERCOSUR Summit took place on December 7, 2023, in Rio de Janeiro, with leaders from Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Bolivia discussing integration progress and future priorities.
* Key economic initiatives included extending the review of the Common External Tariff and implementing new Rules of Origin to modernize trade practices.
* Emphasis was placed on social and health cooperation, including the launch of the first MERCOSUR Epidemiological Bulletin and commitments to equitable health access.
* The summit highlighted advancements in digital cooperation, particularly in cybersecurity and e-commerce agreements.
* Significant external relations developments included the signing of a Free Trade Agreement with Singapore and ongoing negotiations with various countries to enhance trade ties.
* The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to democratic values, human rights, and regional energy integration, alongside maintaining the structural convergence fund (FOCEM).

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva; Alberto Ángel Fernández; Santiago Peña Palacios; Luis Lacalle Pou; Luis Alberto Arce Catacora |
| Southern Common Market | MERCOSUR |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Regional & International Cooperation | EU-LAC Digital Alliance; Global Digital Cooperation; Digital & Technological Partnerships |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Policy; Digital Infrastructure; Digital Platforms; Digital Trade |
| Data & Governance | Digital Governance; Cybersecurity |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion; Social Cohesion |

## Practical Applications

* Extended the mandate for the review of the Common External Tariff (CET) for one year to modernize the tariff structure.
* Committed to implementing the new MERCOSUR Rules of Origin (ROM) concluded in July 2023.
* Launched the first MERCOSUR Epidemiological Bulletin to share epidemiological information among member states.
* Endorsed the Local Border Towns Agreement to facilitate cross-border mobility and services.
* Welcomed progress on a MERCOSUR cooperation instrument on cybersecurity to enhance coordination and response.
* Signed the MERCOSUR-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, marking the first agreement with an Asia-Pacific partner.
* Maintained the FOCEM (Structural Convergence Fund) to support integration and development initiatives within MERCOSUR.
* Advanced discussions on trade agreements with Chile, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and explored negotiations with El Salvador, Dominican Republic, UAE, Canada, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

## Commitments

* Extend the mandate for the review of the Common External Tariff (CET) for one year.
* Implement the new MERCOSUR Rules of Origin (ROM) concluded in July 2023.
* Launch the first MERCOSUR Epidemiological Bulletin.
* Maintain the FOCEM structural-convergence fund.