# 62nd MERCOSUR Summit Meeting: Joint Communiqué of Presidents on Regional Integration and Cooperation

**Date**: 2023-07-04

**Location**: Iguazú, Argentina

## Executive Summary

The LXII MERCOSUR Summit, held on July 4, 2023, in Iguazú, Argentina, brought together leaders from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Bolivia. The summit reaffirmed commitments to democratic institutions, human rights, and regional integration. Key outcomes included the revitalization of the MERCOSUR Social Summit, advancements in legal cooperation, and the establishment of a Digital Library for cultural exchange. Leaders emphasized the importance of addressing social issues, including violence against women and the rights of marginalized groups. They also discussed regional cooperation on drug trafficking, terrorism, and migration, while condemning unilateral actions regarding the Malvinas dispute. The summit concluded with a commitment to sustainable development, energy transition, and enhancing regional cooperation, particularly in agriculture and technology, as well as a recognition of Argentina’s presidency and support for Brazil’s upcoming leadership.

## Characteristics

* Commitment to democracy and human rights: The leaders reaffirmed their dedication to strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law, emphasizing the importance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for regional integration.
* Political inclusion: They highlighted efforts to enhance the participation of associated states in regional political matters, aiming for a more inclusive MERCOSUR.
* Cultural integration initiatives: The summit celebrated cultural actions and the establishment of a digital library to promote Latin American literature and ideas, fostering cultural exchange.
* Social rights focus: The leaders committed to advancing social rights, particularly for vulnerable groups, including the elderly and women, and addressing violence against women.
* Environmental and sustainable development: They emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to combat climate change, promote biodiversity, and ensure sustainable development in the region.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | Alberto Fernández; Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva; Mario Abdo Benítez; Luis Lacalle Pou; Luis Alberto Arce Catacora |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion; Social Cohesion; Gender Equality in Tech; Digital Education |
| Regional & International Cooperation | EU-LAC Digital Alliance; Global Digital Cooperation; Digital & Technological Partnerships |
| Data & Governance | Data Governance; Digital Rights; Digital Governance; Data Protection; Cybersecurity; Data Privacy |

## Practical Applications

* Commitment to the implementation of the “Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Protection Measures for Women in Situations of Gender Violence” among MERCOSUR member states and associated states.
* Establishment of mechanisms for normative harmonization and regional cooperation regarding marriage, personal and patrimonial relations, divorce, and separation.
* Adoption of the recommendation on “Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Older Persons,” promoting public policies for their inclusion and participation in society.
* Support for the Regional Network of Mediators of the Southern Cone to enhance women’s participation in peace processes.
* Creation of the “Digital Library of MERCOSUR and the South American Unit,” providing free access to texts on South American unity and integration.
* Recognition of the work of the Specialized Meeting of Audiovisual Authorities in negotiating an audiovisual co-production agreement to strengthen the industry and promote regional collaboration.
* Commitment to the Forum Specialized on Migration, including cooperation with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) for the extension of a signed agreement.
* Promotion of the “Bioceanic Corridors” projects, including the Bioceanic Integration Railway Corridor and the Bioceanic Road Corridor, to enhance regional trade and connectivity.
* Emphasis on the importance of the Agreement on Border Localities to facilitate cross-border circulation and provide benefits in education, work, health, and commerce for border populations.
* Commitment to strengthen cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime and related offenses, including the enhancement of criminal investigation capacities.
* Support for the implementation of the Vienna Action Program to address the special needs and challenges of Landlocked Developing Countries.
* Commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on economic, social, and environmental dimensions.
* Recognition of the need to combat environmental crimes as a priority area for regional cooperation.

## Commitments

* Commit to the continuation and celebration of the MERCOSUR Social Summit, which had not been held since 2016, indicating a commitment to regular future gatherings.
* Commit to the promotion of regional actions that contribute to the integration of culture as a specific goal among the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations after 2030.
* Celebrate the upcoming Mercado de Industrias Culturales del Sur in Chile in 2024.
* Commit to the implementation of the “Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Protection Measures for Women in Situations of Gender Violence” among MERCOSUR member states.
* Commit to the adoption of the Recommendation on “Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Older Persons,” promoting actions to strengthen their rights and inclusion in society.
* Commit to the evaluation of the impact of electronic travel authorizations on migration flows in the region, with discussions to take place in the Specialized Migration Forum.
* Commit to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on mobilizing necessary resources and respecting national policies and priorities.
* Commit to the regional conference for the review of the Vienna Action Program for July 27-28, 2023, in Asunción, Paraguay.
* Commit to the adoption of measures to combat the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, with a focus on addressing plastic pollution.
* Commit to the financing of the Kunming-Montreal Global Framework for Biodiversity, urging the international community to provide necessary funding for effective implementation.
* Commit to the candidacy of Brazil to host the 30th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-30) in 2025.
* Commit to the strengthening of cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime, particularly in the areas of criminal investigation and asset laundering.
* Commit to the promotion of food security and sustainable agricultural production, ensuring access to adequate food for all.
* Commit to the promotion of renewable energy production and the acceleration of the energy transition in a sustainable and inclusive manner.