

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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## **STRENGTHENING THE U.S.-BRAZIL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP**

Today President Obama and President Rousseff agreed to enhance cooperation on trade, investment, climate change, environment, and sustainable development. As the Western Hemisphere's two largest democracies and two largest economies, they celebrated the vibrant [economic relationship](#). This relationship is anchored by strong trade and investment ties, and based on a shared commitment to broad-based economic growth and sustainable development through environmentally sound and socially inclusive economic policies. During the visit, Presidents Obama and Rousseff noted multiple initiatives that will broaden and deepen our trade and economic relations, and strengthen cooperation on protecting the environment, combating climate change, and supporting green growth to improve human health and well-being.

### **Trade and Investment**

Presidents Obama and Rousseff noted the conclusion of the negotiations on an [Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation](#) (ATEC) in March 2011. The completion of this landmark agreement is a significant achievement and creates a new bilateral trade dialogue with Brazil that will give us a framework to deepen our cooperation on a range of policy issues including intellectual property rights, trade facilitation and technical barriers to trade.

The leaders welcomed the conclusion of a new [Memorandum of Consultations](#) ("Open Skies") and applauded the agreement on transitional provisions until the agreement enters into force. Open Skies will allow for significant expansion of air services between our two countries. Brazil is the United States' largest aviation partner in South America, with over three million passengers annually. Establishing Open Skies is an important advance in our bilateral relationship and will strengthen our trade and tourism links.

President Obama and President Rousseff noted the recent signing of a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) to foster enhanced cooperation and exchange of best practices in advance of Brazil's hosting a series of major international sporting events, including the 2014 FIFA soccer World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics. The MOU provides a framework for our cooperation on information exchange relating to these events, outlines opportunities for U.S.-Brazil cooperation to facilitate sales of safety and security products from U.S. firms, and reinforces goals for social inclusion to ensure that underserved communities also benefit from economic opportunities provided by the games.

The leaders applauded the U.S. Export-Import Bank Board approval of a nearly \$1 billion preliminary commitment to the State of Rio de Janeiro for infrastructure projects, particularly for flood relief, and preparations for the upcoming 2014 FIFA soccer World Cup and 2016 Summer

Olympic Games. The facility can be converted to loan, guarantee, or insurance transactions over the next two years as Rio State finds potential U.S. exporters for its infrastructure projects.

Building on the strong cooperation achieved in coordinating the global response to the financial crisis through the G-20, the Presidents decided to formalize a U.S.-Brazil Economic & Financial Dialogue, led by Treasury Secretary Geithner and Minister of Finance Mantega. The dialogue will seek to promote common positions on global economic policy and find opportunities for greater bilateral economic cooperation. The first meeting will be held in the second half of 2011.

### **Climate, Clean Energy, and Environment**

Presidents Obama and Rouseff applauded the outcome of the climate change negotiations at COP-16 in Cancun and stressed the importance of implementing the Cancun agreements, including on transparency, adaptation, finance, technology, and forests. They agreed to work together toward a positive outcome at COP-17 in Durban, South Africa.

The leaders applauded bilaterally and regionally cooperation to promote sustainable urban development and planning. Brazil was the first country to offer a leadership role in the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas by launching an initiative to promote energy-efficient housing and improve living conditions for low-income residents. The Ashoka Changemakers, with support from the U.S. government, are running a competition to identify inclusive, sustainable, energy efficient housing strategies for low-income residence in urban areas. Ashoka will award a \$10,000 prize during a ceremony at the National Building Museum in June 2011.

### **Rio +20 and Green Growth**

In support of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20), and to spur sustainable green growth in both countries, Presidents Rouseff and Obama agreed to collaborate on a joint green economy partnership. This initiative will serve as a platform for cooperation to develop opportunities for commercial investment, design, and product development in the infrastructure systems of the future. As global demand for urban infrastructure shifts toward greener, smarter and more resilient systems, the leaders embraced this cooperation to help mobilize financing and showcase the measurable economic, environmental, and social benefits of investing in greener economies and smarter cities.

### **Development Cooperation**

[Joint Protocol of Intent on Trilateral Activities](#): The United States and Brazil signed a Protocol of Intent to enhance our current activities and expand our technical cooperation in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. This partnership in economic development, education, food security, women's advancement, health care, and social inclusion will build upon existing trilateral work in Mozambique, including a joint project under the U.S. Feed the Future Initiative for horticulture development and school feeding programs, an HIV/AIDS program, and the continuation of a program for agricultural research with Brazil's National Agricultural Research Enterprise (EMBRAPA).

[USAID/ABC Staff Exchange](#): In February 2011, USAID and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) signed an agreement to facilitate the exchange of personnel between the two agencies. This exchange provides a tangible example of our willingness to move forward on trilateral cooperation efforts.

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