

PRESENTATION

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This issue of the *Cadernos de Política Exterior* [Foreign Policy Journals], a publication of the Institute for Research on International Relations (IPRI) of the Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation (FUNAG), brings together thirteen articles that reflect the diversity and complexity of contemporary debates on foreign policy, international relations, and global governance. This edition highlights both traditional and emerging themes, combining theoretical analyses, case studies, and critical reflections on the challenges faced by Brazil and the international community. This issue features contributions from researchers who participate in IPRI's Volunteer Researcher Program, which completes its first anniversary in 2025, as well as from the winners of the Maria José de Castro Rebello Mendes Award, a FUNAG initiative to encourage academic production by women scholars.

International relations and global governance are explored in four articles in this edition, examining the challenges and transformations of international institutions in the face of contemporary crises. The articles address both old and new international issues, ranging from the structural problems of the UN Security Council to the potential for strengthening global governance through metacognition, understood as a tool for developing reflective capacity in diplomatic negotiations. Against the backdrop of the current discussion on artificial intelligence, Gabriel Goldmeier and Ronaldo Mota analyze its impacts in the field of International Relations, highlighting the relevance of metacognition, the ability to reflect on one's own reasoning, as a tool for facing contemporary challenges, including the need for new forms of cooperation among nations. In the sphere of global governance, Fernando de Mello Barreto questions whether international law is in crisis, examining criticisms and proposing ways to strengthen it. Similarly, Rafaela Seixas Fontes analyzes the role of the UN Security Council in promoting peace, highlighting

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structural and normative limitations that compromise its effectiveness. In the area of interregional cooperation, Eunjae Kim assesses institutional and theoretical limitations in the context of FEALAC (Forum for East Asia–Latin America Cooperation), discussing the challenges of interregionalism that hinder cooperation between regions.

Five articles in this edition explore the intersection between trade, environment, and technological innovation. With a focus on sustainability and climate justice, as well as the bioeconomy, the articles shed a new light on recurring themes on the international agenda. The analyses converge on an environmental perspective based on the concepts of sustainable development, factoring in financing and climate diplomacy. Julia Driemeier Vieira Rosa, the winner of the Maria José de Castro Rebello Mendes Award in the category of researchers with a master's or doctoral degree, examines the gaps in climate finance and Brazil's challenges at COP30. The scholar proposes a review of financial flows and underscores the need for diplomatic skills to lead the conference. Breno Barreto Dumas Gomes, Giovana Bernardo Brito dos Santos, and Gonzalo Diego Peña explore the convergence between artificial intelligence (AI) and the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) strategic agenda. They propose a practical agenda to align technological innovation with measurable socio-environmental results. The bioeconomy is gaining prominence as a strategic theme in the G20 under Brazilian leadership. Phillipe Käfer, a volunteer researcher at IPRI, analyzes political advances and sustainable financing challenges, exploring the intersection of development, climate, and South-South cooperation. Daiane Carolina Silva and João Paulo Cândia Veiga discuss the role of soybeans as a diplomatic asset in Brazil–China relations, linking trade, climate, and global governance. Pedro Mariano Martins Pontes discusses the challenges the World Trade Organization (WTO) faces due to the proliferation of environmental measures with trade effects at the intersection of international trade and the environment. The article proposes balancing sustainability with the fundamental principles of international trade. The articles demonstrate the growing politicization of sustainability in international trade, as well as the need for more equitable and effective regulatory instruments.

This edition features two articles focusing on human rights and social justice—a legal and political analysis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with implications for the world order, and a study on migrant and refugee women in Brazil that reveals gaps in public mental health and shelter policies from a gender perspective. The articles emphasize the importance of incorporating ethical and legal principles into political and institutional

practices to promote a more humane and sensitive approach to inequalities. In the first article, Marco Tulio Scarpelli Cabral delves into on human rights by examining the legal and political dimensions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, highlighting its normative and political influence on the contemporary international order. Jessica Carla Hubner Messas and Sheila Hubner Messas, winners in the undergraduate or graduate student category of the Maria José de Castro Rebello Mendes Award, address the challenges faced by migrant and refugee women in Brazil in the second article. They propose gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate public policies.

Infrastructure as a vector of regional integration and geopolitical influence is examined in two articles that emphasize its potential as an instrument of power and dependence. These articles call for greater attention to sovereignty and sustainability in related projects. In this context, Gustavo Gerlach da Silva Ziemath analyzes the physical integration between Brazil and Peru, from IIRSA to the present day, highlighting the resilience of the bilateral logistics agenda and proposing actions to ensure its continuity. Chinese investments in the Brazilian soy-meat complex reveal commercial and state interests, reshaping Brazil's role in global supply chains. Thus, this edition begins with an examination of Chinese investments in Brazilian agribusiness, with a focus on the soybean-meat complex. Júlia Rensi, a volunteer researcher at IPRI, analyzes how Chinese activity has evolved from mergers and acquisitions to investments in logistics infrastructure, revealing strategic and political implications for Brazil.

This volume reaffirms *Cadernos de Política Exterior's* commitment to promoting qualified and pluralistic analyses of the issues that shape Brazil's international integration and the trends in global politics. By bringing together diplomats and researchers with diverse backgrounds and perspectives, the publication strengthens public and academic discourse on contemporary international relations.