

Brazil-U.S. Council pushes for bilateral trade deal

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The Brazil-U.S. Business Council is urging Brazil's government to explore a potential trade deal with the United States and boost its engagement in international groups like the World Trade Organization as a way to pull the country out of its recession and onto a path of economic growth.

The council, a branch of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, included the recommendations in a series of proposed reforms in a [white paper](#) released today at the start of a conference on Brazil's economic outlook and recovery.

The hemisphere's two largest economies should begin a "scoping exercise" involving both the U.S. government and private sector to explore a potential bilateral agreement, the paper says.

Robson Braga de Andrade, president of the National Confederation of Industry, which manages the Brazilian section of the council, said at the conference that implementing reforms to increase the country's effectiveness in international trade is a priority, and the government must "move speedily" to do so.

Andrade said through a translator that the current priority for his organization is to complete a free trade agreement between the European Union and the Mercosur bloc, and they are working with the Brazilian government to craft proposals for that pact, which he called "not ideal" but "a first step."

The United States, he added, continues to be Brazil's main trade and investment partner, and he stressed the importance of fully implementing the Trade Facilitation Agreement to ease trade between the two countries.

"This relationship must be a priority for us," Andrade said.