

FOREIGN POLICY AND REGIONALISM THE GOVERNMENT PLANS OF BRAZILIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN THE 2018 ELECTIONS

*Observatório de Regionalismo
Regionalism Observatory*

The Observatório de Regionalismo - Regionalism Observatory - presents the dossier on foreign policy and regionalism in the 2018 presidential elections in Brazil. This work aims to analyze the programmatic proposals on foreign policy, South American integration and regionalism of the main presidential candidates in the Brazilian elections. General elections are scheduled to be held in Brazil on October 7th 2018.

In Brazilian electoral campaigns for the presidency, foreign policy issues have had low expressiveness as a theme in comparison to other public policies of greater attention to the country's population, such as economy, security, health and education. If we consider South American regional integration and regionalism - which are subareas of Brazil's foreign policy - this attention is even less expressive, notwithstanding its potential as a public policy and its distributive effect at the domestic level. It is worth mentioning that the Brazilian experience with the issue is not exclusive, which leads us to the conclusion that definitively "foreign policy does not win elections".

Exceptionally for occasional polemics that are used by political rhetoric in electoral campaigns, even as a mark of opposing candidacies, foreign policy almost never receives the appropriate relevance in electoral programs, political debates, political propaganda on radio, television, and internet.

Therefore, through analysis of campaign documents and speeches this dossier seeks to answer to the following questions: do regionalism and regional integration have a place in the Brazilian presidential candidate's policy plans? If so, how are these themes appreciated? The free and public access of this material is intended for anyone who seeks to be better informed about the candidates' political proposals in terms of foreign policy.

The work here presented does not intend to establish conclusions about the candidacies. Our intention is to offer an informative material based on data analysis from official documents and the systematization of the foreign policy proposals especially on regionalism.

Finally, only the five best-scoring candidates in the most recent opinion polls published until the launch of this project were selected for analysis. A total of 13 candidacies officialized their candidature to race for the presidency in the 2018 elections in Brazil. Thus, the analyzed programs are arranged alphabetically according to the following sequence of candidates: *Ciro Gomes*, *Fernando Haddad*, *Geraldo Alckmin*, *Jair Bolsonaro* and *Marina Silva*.

NOTES

- 1 Available online:
<https://g1.globo.com/politica/eleicoes/2018/noticia/2018/09/14/pesquisa-datafolha-bolsonaro-26-ciro-13-haddad-13-alckmin-9-marina-8.ghtml>;
<https://noticias.uol.com.br/politica/eleicoes/2018/noticias/2018/09/17/pesquisa-intencao-de-voto-presidente-cnt-mds-17-de-setembro-de-2018.htm>