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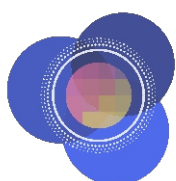


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CADERNOS *de* **REGIONALISMO ODR**



GRUPO DE PESQUISA VINCULADO À REPRI
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Foreign Policy and Regionalism: the governments plans of Brazilian presidential candidates in the 2022 elections

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CADERNOS DE REGIONALISMO ODR
DOSSIER - 2022

Foreign Policy and Regionalism: the governments
plans of Brazilian presidential candidates
in the 2022 elections

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SIMONE TEBET

Paulo Cesar dos Santos Martins

Received in: 23 August 2022

Accepted in: 30 August 2022.

Candidates

Simone Nassar Tebet (Movimento Democrático Brasileiro/MDB), presidente

Mara Cristina Gabrilli (Partido da Social Democracia Brasileira/PSDB), vice-presidente

Coalition

“Brazil for all” (MDB, PSDB, CITIZENSHIP, PODEMOS)

Previous political positions

State Deputy for Mato Grosso do Sul (2002 – 2004); Mayor of Três Lagoas/MS (2005 – 2010); Vice-Governor for Mato Grosso do Sul state (2011 – 2014); Senator Mato Grosso do Sul state (2015 – current)

Previous presidential campaigns

No

International relations advisor

Embaixador José Alfredo Graça Lima

Candidate for the Presidency of the Republic by the Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB), Simone Nassar Tebet, senator elected in 2014 by the state of Mato Grosso do Sul (MS), managed to place her candidacy and make her official run for the Palácio da Alvorada after a period of uncertainty and resistance from some members of the party itself, who even called the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) against the senator's candidacy (GARCIA, 2022) . Such resistance involved political differences within the party itself as there was no unanimity among members in support of Tebet's candidacy for the presidency.

Born in Três Lagoas/MS and a lawyer at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Simone Tebet was elected state deputy for the state in 2002, mayor of the municipality of Três Lagoas/MS in 2004, vice governor of the state of MS in 2010 and elected senator in 2014. The senator constitutes herself as a name of the third way” (ESTADÃO CONTEÚDO, 2022) , an alternative that postulates the construction of another way capable of going to the second round of the 2022 elections in the face of polarization and antagonism linked to the two main candidates best placed .

Mara Cristina Gabrilli from the MDB, vice candidate on the ticket, is from São Paulo and was elected senator for the same state in 2018. Graduated in psychology from Universidade Paulista and in social communication (advertising and advertising) from Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing, she became a councilor for the São Paulo City Council in 2007, being re-elected in 2008. In 2014, she was elected federal deputy for the state of São Paulo and Senator for the same state in 2018.

For the first time as candidates for the Presidency of the Republic and supported by the party federation of the Brazilian Social Democracy Party (PSDB) and Citizenship, made official on July 27, 2022, the articulation to consolidate the ticket of Tebet and Mara took place after the withdrawal (G1 SP, 2022), on May 23, 2022, of the former governor of São Paulo João Doria as a PSDB pre-candidate for the Palácio do Planalto. On August 5th, the Podemos political party announced its support for Tebet's presidential candidacy, raising the number of parties that officially support his candidacy to four (BRASIL, 2022).

The candidate's 48-page government plan (BRASIL, 2022) entitled “Principles, Guidelines and Commitment” was registered with the TSE on August 15, 2022 and proposes a broad and comprehensive reconstruction of the country, covering sensitive

topics such as economic growth, hunger and misery, inequality, employment, quality of life for the population, among others. The document is divided into four main axes: social justice, citizenship and combating inequalities; green economy and sustainable development; government partner of the private sector; inclusive, secure and transparent government.

In general terms, the government plan presents some proposals on the following themes: social inequality, education, health, work, housing, culture, environment, economy, infrastructure, diplomacy, institutions, diversity and human rights, people with disabilities and public safety.

The foreign policy of the government plan is linked to macroeconomic initiatives and support for private investments described in axis 3. Through this axis, the candidate proposes to resume Brazilian leadership in commercial areas through dialogue, seeking to implement new economic agreements, modernization of the country's infrastructure, greater integration and participation of the Brazilian State in the international economy, as well as improving Brazil's image in international discussion spaces and forums.

The logic of the plan consists of recovering the prestige of Brazilian diplomacy in the various international forums, using the extensive network of diplomatic representations abroad to facilitate bilateral flows of people, goods, services, investments and technology. It is therefore proposed to intensify the country's participation in the work of the United Nations (UN), particularly in those aimed at: mitigating climate change; promote sustainable development; to guarantee international peace and security; fight arms and drug trafficking, corruption, terrorism and cyber warfare, reform the UN Charter, expand its Security Council, among other global issues.

The government's plan also defends the reinforcement of Latin American integration, deepening existing agreements and negotiating new agreements, promoting physical integration and investments in infrastructure in South America, in order to take advantage of the movements of reconfiguration of international value chains. . As for Mercosur, the plan understands that the bloc's consolidation requires the creation of proposals and actions aimed at liberalizing trade in goods and services, and the movement of people and capital among its members.

Another important point of the government's plan is the reinvigoration of Brazil's role in the World Trade Organization (WTO), helping to make the multilateral trading

system more open and less discriminatory. Furthermore, greater Brazilian engagement is sought in the discussions of plurilateral groups in which Brazil participates, such as the G-20 and BRICS¹. This proposal aims to strengthen multilateralism and further advance in the process of accessing the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), conceived as an opportunity for a general review of national public policies, aiming at their improvement in the light of best experiences and practices.

Furthermore, the government plan states that Brazil's international role needs to be resumed, placing the country as the leader of the global geopolitical agenda over the next few decades, emphasizing themes related to sustainability, the green economy, and the carbon credit market. properly structured and developed. For this, it is necessary to repress the degradation of the Amazon, end deforestation, recover deteriorated areas and achieve international goals for reducing greenhouse gasses, in addition to achieving the reforestation rates proposed in international agreements.

In addition, another proposal of the plan consists of retaking the Amazon Fund², strengthening its governance in a strategic way in the capture of funds, resources and international donations, which will be redirected to the inspection, protection and preservation of the different biomes existing in that region. . With this, it is expected to achieve satisfactory results in promoting the social and human development of the populations located there, emphasizing environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Regarding regional integration and multilateralism as strategic aspects for Brazilian international insertion, the plan defends the country's integration into the international economy in order to improve the competitiveness of the Brazilian economy through the continued increase in productivity levels, the implementation of reforms structural changes, increased investment in human capital, and modernization of regional infrastructure. These objectives are in line with the need to adjust Brazil's public debt through the creation of a medium-term "Federal Expenditure Plan", in line with the methodology adopted by OECD countries, allowing for the robust construction of fiscal scenarios in line with multi-year targets.

Through the strengthening and restoration of the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES), the aim is to reinforce the bank's role in supporting

small and medium-sized companies, as well as restoring the financing mechanisms of public banks for exports, in line with the best international practices. With this, it is expected to increase the degree of commercial openness and internationalization of the Brazilian economy, promoting the attraction of new investments and greater integration into global value chains, in addition to negotiating new agreements with relevant trading partners and making efforts to put in place agreements negotiated recently.

Another proposal of the plan is to intensify Brazil's participation in international peacekeeping forces, reinforcing exchanges and collaboration with different countries around the world, in addition to seeking to strengthen the country's global geopolitical vision and the pacifist and universal position of the Brazilian Armed Forces.

Thus, in what corresponds to the proposals of the government plan for Brazilian foreign policy listed throughout this text, there is a significant absence of China and how the relationship of a possible Tibet government with the Asian country will be (BALBI, 2022). Brazil's largest trading partner, China continues to emerge as a world superpower and it would be essential to discuss the relations of both countries on the global stage, especially due to the commercial weight of this Asian giant for Brazil.

Therefore, in general, the guidelines of the government plan presented by Simone Tebet's campaign in relation to Brazil's foreign policy reinforce the importance of Brazilian multilateralism; gives maintenance of Latin American physical integration; the deepening of Mercosur; the recovery of the prestige of Brazilian diplomacy in international forums and its active participation in the discussion spaces of the different groups: G20, BRICS, OECD, UN, among others; as well as using the various networks of diplomatic representations in order to facilitate bilateral flows of goods, services, people, technology and investments.

Thus, in the words of Simone Tebet, strengthening the Ministry of Foreign Affairs seems to be the way to regain all the prestige and importance of the country on the international scene and stop being an "international pariah" (GRABOIS, 2022). In this way, the candidate highlights the need to value the country's international relations, since they are fundamental mechanisms in attracting and attracting private investments, which are "stuck" awaiting economically significant projects.

Notes

- ¹ Group currently formed by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa and although the five countries are not a political bloc or a formal or military trade alliance, they have negotiated several trade and cooperation treaties with a view to increasing their economic growth. Available from: <https://www12.senado.leg.br/noticias/entenda-o-assunto/bric>. Accessed 24 Aug. 2022
- ² The Amazon Fund consists of a fundraising and donation mechanism aimed at preventing, monitoring and combating deforestation in the Legal Amazon. BRAZIL. Ministry of the Environment (org.). Amazon Fund. 2022. Available from: <http://www.fundoamazonia.gov.br/pt/home/>. Accessed 28 Aug. 2022

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G1 SP. João Doria anuncia desistência da pré-candidatura à Presidência. **G1**, 23 May 2022. Available from: <https://g1.globo.com/politica/eleicoes/2022/noticia/2022/05/23/doria-pronunciamento.ghtml>. Accessed 19 Aug. 2022.