

# WEEKLY REPORT



04/24/21

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## POLITICS

### **BOLSONARO APPROVES BRAZIL'S FEDERAL BUDGET LAW FOR 2021 WITH VETOES**

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro sanctioned the federal Budget this Thursday, April 22, the last day he was empowered to do so. He vetoed some passages of the Annual Budget statute passed by Congress. The sanction, confirmed Thursday night by the Planalto Palace and published in the Federal Gazette on Friday, aims to unblock the federal accounts, and respect the vetoes that the Executive and Legislative branches had agreed on before its sanction. [Read more.](#)

### **"SPENDING CAP BUSTERS ARE WINNING THE WAR IN BRAZIL," SAYS TENDÊNCIAS ECONOMIST**

Despite the prospect of an agreement between the government and Congress for the sanction of this year's Budget, the Brazilian fiscal problem is far from a solution. This is the assessment of economist Nathan Blanche, partner at Tendências Consultoria Integrada, to whom Brazil's fiscal situation is the most worrying since the Collor government (1990-1992). Blanche says that Minister of Economy Paulo Guedes, has become a "hostage" of politics and is losing the war to the "cap busters" – a reference to politicians and other members of the government who advocate a relaxation of the spending cap. Below are the main parts of the interview. [Read more.](#)

### **MOODY'S REBUKES BRAZIL FOR EXCLUDING PANDEMIC SPENDING FROM FISCAL CEILING**

Rating agency Moody's has assessed that the exclusion from the spending cap of additional government spending, such as that linked to Covid-19, is negative for Brazil's credit rating profile, which is at Ba2, with a stable outlook. However, Moody's vice-president and senior analyst, Samar Maziad, said in the report that "if recurring exceptions are created to accommodate spending above the ceiling", the "credibility" of this instrument will be "questioned". This will have "negative implications for the cost and dynamics of public debt" in Brazil, it added. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S SUPREME COURT CONFIRMS THAT FORMER JUDGE MORO WAS BIASED IN LULA TRIAL**

The majority of Brazil's Supreme Court (STF) justices confirmed, on Thursday, April 22, that former judge Sergio Moro did not act with "impartiality" in one of the trials against former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, whose sentences had been previously annulled. By 7 votes to 2, most of the court cast votes ratifying the decision handed down a month ago by the Second Panel of the Supreme Court; the session was suspended and the decision of two other justices is still pending. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL WILL REACH CLIMATE NEUTRALITY BY 2050, BOLSONARO SAYS**

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday, April 22, that the country would reach climate neutrality by 2050, in the most ambitious goal set by the right-wing leader who appears to be changing his position on the environment. Speaking at a summit of world leaders,

Bolsonaro's pledge would move forward the previous target for reaching net zero emissions by 10 years. He repeated a commitment made last week to end illegal deforestation by 2030, adding that it would reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions by roughly 50% by that date. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL MAY BRING FORWARD END OF ILLEGAL DEFORESTATION TO 2022 – MINISTER**

Amid strong international and Brazilian investor pressure for concrete results in the environmental area, President Jair Bolsonaro is expected to announce at the Leaders' Climate Summit his government's commitment to speed efforts toward the goal of reducing illegal deforestation in the country and pledge an increase in public resources for agencies responsible for environmental monitoring, government sources said. Minister of the Environment Ricardo Salles during a virtual meeting with entrepreneurs yesterday signaled that the government may bring forward to 2022 the goal of reducing illegal deforestation. In a letter to U.S. president Joe Biden, Bolsonaro had stated last week that he is committed to zero deforestation by 2030, a commitment perceived as "not very ambitious." [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S GOVERNMENT APPROVES CREATION OF PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE AND LOW-CARBON FUELS**

The government has approved the creation of a program to propose measures increasing the use of sustainable and low carbon intensity fuels in the country. The so-called "Fuel of the Future Program" was approved by the National Energy Policy Council (CNPE) in a meeting on Tuesday, April 20th. According to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), the program provides guidelines that include the inter-institutional coordination and the integration of public policies related to the automotive sector, including programs such as Renovabio, the National Program for Biodiesel Production and Use, and Rota 2030. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL JOINS INDIA, CHINA, AND SOUTH AFRICA TO ARGUE THAT RICH COUNTRIES SHOULD FINANCE GLOBAL WARMING ACTIONS**

In preparation for the Climate Summit, Brazil met on April 8 with China, India, and South Africa to argue that rich countries should finance actions against global warming. At the meeting, a Basic forum environment ministers' conference comprising the four countries, the Brazilian government helped on climate change. Brazil's joint action with recently industrialized governments was considered critical for the government of President Jair Bolsonaro, seen in the United States and in Europe as the current environmental villain. [Read more.](#)

### **U.S.-BRAZIL CEO FORUM ADVOCATES "ROBUST ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA"**

Under international pressure, Brazil participates this Thursday in the Leaders' Climate Summit, organized by U.S president Joe Biden, with the support and high expectations of entrepreneurs comprising the Brazil-United States CEO Forum, responsible for promoting and increasing trade and investments between the two countries for 14 years. This support was manifested in the "Environmental Sustainability Letter," sent to the Ministries of Environment, Economy, Civil House, and Foreign Relations last week, where the bloc expresses to the government its support to the "creation of a robust environmental sustainability agenda". [Read more.](#)

### **SÃO PAULO GOVERNOR DORIA WANTS TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN BRAZIL'S 2022 VOTE**

São Paulo state Governor João Doria will seek to win his PSDB party nomination for the Brazilian presidency in an October primary, he told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday, trying to unseat President Jair Bolsonaro in next year's election. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO SAYS MILITARY WOULD FOLLOW HIS ORDERS TO TAKE THE STREETS**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Friday that if he were to order the military to take the streets and restore order, "the order will be followed," raising fresh questions about his politicization of the armed forces. Speaking during a TV interview, Bolsonaro said he would not "go into details into what I'm preparing." But he said that "if we were to have problems, we have a plan of how to enter the field ... our armed forces could one day go into the streets." [Read more.](#)

### **RAVAGED BY COVID, BRAZIL FACES A HUNGER EPIDEMIC**

Tens of millions of Brazilians are facing hunger or food insecurity as the country's Covid-19 crisis drags on, killing thousands of people every day. [Read more.](#)

## **HEALTH**

### **BOLSONARO: COVID DEATHS IN BRAZIL BEGIN TO DROP FOR FEAR OF INVESTIGATION ON REAL NUMBERS**

On Tuesday, April 20th, President Jair Bolsonaro said that deaths by the novel coronavirus have begun to drop in Brazil because there is "fear" over an investigation on the numbers of the pandemic. According to the president, an investigation into data on the disease in the country could show that the numbers were inflated to harm his government. The statement came during an agenda with evangelical leaders from Anápolis (GO) at the Planalto Palace yesterday afternoon. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S PHARMACIES SOLD OVER 52 MILLION "COVID KIT" PILLS IN PANDEMIC, DESPITE LACK OF EFFICACY AGAINST COVID-19**

Brazilian pharmacies sold over 52 million tablets of four drugs from the so-called "covid kit" in one year of pandemic: hydroxychloroquine sulfate, azithromycin, ivermectin, and nitazoxanide. According to an exclusive survey by Agência Pública, more than 6.6 million bottles and boxes of these four drugs were sold from March 2020 to March 2021. [Read more.](#)

### **BOLSONARO CALLS COVID VACCINE BEING DEVELOPED BY SÃO PAULO'S BUTANTAN INSTITUTE "MANDRAKE"**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro attacked the São Paulo-based world-renowned Butantan Institute when inviting the Minister of Science and Technology, Marcos Pontes, to talk about a vaccine entirely produced in the country by researchers from Ribeirão Preto. President Jair Bolsonaro called the new vaccine against Covid-19 developed by the Butantan Institute "mandrake". The entity, which is linked to the government of São Paulo and has already developed Coronavac in partnership with the Chinese laboratory Sinovac, is now working to create a Brazilian immunizer, called Butanvac. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL REGISTERS 1.4 MILLION POST-COVID SYNDROME CASES, ALERT DOCTORS AND SCIENTISTS**

Doctors and scientists alert that the post-Covid syndrome has now affected 1.4 million people in Brazil and is spreading like a wave in the ditch opened by the pandemic in one of its worst moments. Just as they alerted to the imminent shortage of oxygen, ICUs, and medicines in the country's hospitals, professionals now draw attention to the risk of insufficient outpatient clinics and professionals to attend to so many people with sequelae of the disease. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM AT RISK DUE TO 2ND DOSE NO-SHOWS**

Brazil's Covid-19 vaccination program is being put at risk by people failing to show up for their second shot, with 1.5 million people missing appointments for the follow-up dose needed to maximize protection, according to the Health Ministry. Specialists say that is particularly concerning after a recent real-world study from Chile found that the Sinovac vaccine, which

has accounted for some 80% of Brazil's program, is just 16% effective after one shot. [Read more.](#)

**BRAZIL PASSES LAW TO SPEED UP SENDING OF GENETIC HERITAGE DATA ABROAD**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Tuesday (Apr. 20) sanctioned the law governing the procedures on sending samples with genetic heritage data overseas in epidemiological scenarios with major public health concerns. The initiative aims to speed up, simplify, and devise strategies for the development of therapeutic products. The law eases the protection of Brazilian genetic heritage established in a 2015 law, but mandates that its application should take place in "epidemiological settings leading to a public health emergency." [Read more.](#)



**CONSULTORES**  

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**Relações Governamentais**