

# **First Meeting of the Strategic Partnership Framework between MERCOSUR - Japan**

*Asuncion, 27 January 2026*

## **Summary of Discussions**

1. The delegations of MERCOSUR and Japan held, on 27 January 2026 in Asuncion, the First Meeting of the Strategic Partnership Framework between MERCOSUR and Japan, the establishment of which on 20 December 2025 was highly acknowledged and welcomed at the leaders' level in both sides.
2. Both sides reaffirmed their friendly relations, based on shared fundamental values and their commitment to an open, transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system. They acknowledged that MERCOSUR and Japan are one of each other's highly important economic partners, with a significant potential for deepening and diversifying their economic relations.
3. The delegations exchanged views on the implementation of the Strategic Partnership Framework, recalling that it is intended to elevate cooperation to a higher level from a long-term and comprehensive perspective, grounded in trade and investment and building upon them. MERCOSUR expressed its high expectations for launching an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)/Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiation process.
4. The delegation of Japan made reference to a wide range of areas for possible cooperation with the aim to strengthen the relations between MERCOSUR and Japan, including specific areas such as trade and investment, supply chains, digital economy, stable grain supply and energy transition. MERCOSUR pointed out its interest to secure market access for agricultural products together with transparent and science based sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures as well as to promote technical cooperation between MERCOSUR and Japan. The delegations of MERCOSUR highlighted the importance of reconciling such cooperation between Japan and MERCOSUR with existing initiatives at national level.
5. The delegations reaffirmed the importance of maintaining a continuous and constructive dialogue as a means to enhance mutual understanding and to explore concrete and mutually beneficial avenues to operationalize the Strategic Partnership Framework. The delegations have decided to react to each other's comments following internal consultations, at the next meeting of the Strategic Partnership Framework.
6. In this context, MERCOSUR and Japan have decided to hold the Second Meeting of the Strategic Partnership Framework by the end of March of 2026, at a time and venue to be determined through diplomatic channels.

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