



# Methodological Note on the Database of Trade Agreements between Latin American and Asia-Pacific Countries



## 1. Objective

For the purpose of monitoring economic relations between Latin American and Asia-Pacific countries, a database was developed to bring together the trade agreements currently in force between the countries of both regions. The database includes bilateral and plurilateral agreements that contain provisions related to trade in goods, trade in services, investments, and economic cooperation.

To facilitate the understanding of the collected information, this document was prepared to outline the main methodological criteria used for the construction and updating of the database.

## 2. Countries Involved

In accordance with the definition adopted by the Observatory, the Latin American region comprises the following countries: Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The Asia-Pacific region includes: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Republic of Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The database covers agreements in force between Latin American and Asia-Pacific countries; therefore, intra-regional agreements are excluded.

## 3. Agreements Included and Classification Criteria

The database includes the international instruments that regulate economic and trade relations between Latin American and Asia-Pacific countries. It comprises instruments with provisions related to trade in goods, trade in services, investments, and economic cooperation.

## 3.1. Under Negotiation, Signed, In Force, and Terminated

The database only includes agreements that have completed the internal legal procedures required by the parties and have formally entered into force. Consequently, agreements currently under negotiation are excluded, as are those that, despite having been signed, have not yet completed the statutory procedures necessary for their entry into force. Furthermore, agreements that are no longer active due to expiration, denunciation, or replacement by another instrument are excluded .

In the case of certain plurilateral agreements, entry into force takes effect individually for each party. Consequently, an agreement may be included in the database when it is already in force for specific Latin American and Asia-Pacific countries, even if it has not yet entered into force for all of its signatories. This situation occurs , for instance, in agreements signed between Singapore and the countries of the Pacific Alliance, as well as between Singapore and the MERCOSUR State Parties.

## 3.2. Classification of Agreements

To facilitate user searches, the agreements have been categorized according to the following criteria:

- By Signatory Country: Latin American countries are designated as “Parties,” whereas Asia-Pacific countries are designated as “Counterparties.”
- By Date: Agreements in force can be searched either by signature date or by the date of entry into force. It should be noted that in plurilateral agreements, the date of entry into force usually differs for each participating country, meaning an instrument may be in force for some parties but not yet for others.
- By Subject Matter: The database allows searches for agreements in force based on the following thematic categories: Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investments, and Cooperation. A single agreement may be classified under more than one thematic category simultaneously .

## 3.3. Data Collection Procedure and Sources

To collect the information, the General Secretariat consulted the official websites of the government bodies of the countries in both regions. The data obtained were cross-referenced with databases and platforms maintained by specialized international organizations in the field, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), the

Organization of American States (OAS), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

In the event of discrepancies among the sources consulted, preference was given to the primary source—namely, the information officially published by the authorities of the countries involved.

Any doubts regarding the date of signature or entry into force of an agreement that may arise concerning ALADI member countries are channeled, where appropriate, through the Permanent Representations of the member countries to the Association.

Finally, specific comments regarding differentiated dates of entry into force or other aspects that may be of interest to users are recorded in the "Notes" field.

### 3.4. Publication and Update Date

The database is published on the [Observatory's](#) website and may be used provided that the source is duly cited.

The updating date displayed in the publication corresponds to the moment when the General Secretariat of ALADI concludes the process of compiling, verifying, and validating the information. This procedure is conducted on an annual basis.

The latest update corresponds to May 4, 2026.

The information contained within the database is intended solely for reference and analytical purposes. Although the General Secretariat endeavors to verify the data utilizing official sources and specialized international organizations, users are recommended to consult the official texts of the respective agreements for definitive legal interpretations.

Finally, we would appreciate it if users who detect any errors or omissions are kindly requested to report them to the following email address: : [observatorio@aladi.org](mailto:observatorio@aladi.org).

**Disclaimer:** This text is a professional translation provided solely for informational and reference purposes. It does not constitute an official or legally binding translation.