POLITICAL RELATIONS: Colombia-Russia

EMERGENCE AND ADVANCES IN THE PARTNESHIP

From symbolic relations to a strategic global partnership

1858–1935

- Initial recongnition in 1858 by the czar Alexander II and formal estabelishmet of diplomatic relation only in 1935

1943–1944

- First exchange of embassators in 1943 during the conflict and foundation of the Leon Tolstoi Cultural Institute in 1944

1948–1967

- Rupture in the relationship after instabilities of 1948 and reestablishment in 1967 with focus on commerce and payments

1991–1994

- USSR succession by the Russian Federation in 1991 and renewal of the diplomatic foundations with a new treaty in 1994

2017–2022

- Tensions under the Duque government with expulsion of diplomats and espionage investigations with "Operación Enigma"

2022–2025

- Search for mediation with abstaining in UN in 2025 and official admission in the New Development Bank (NDB)

- **Institutional continuity:** although Colombia's the historic alignment is with the US and NATO, dialogue has persisted for decades
- **Peak of tensions (2018-2022):** Ivan Duque's government was marked by strong distrust, reports of espionage ("Operación Enigma"), and expulsion of diplomats in 2020
- **New Direction (2022+):** under Gustavo Petro, the foreign policy seeks more autonomy and focus on diplomatic mediation

Fase 1: Emergence and initial contacts 1858-1944	Fase 2 - Rupture, resumption and transition 1948-1994	Fase 3: Tensions and pragmatism 2017-present

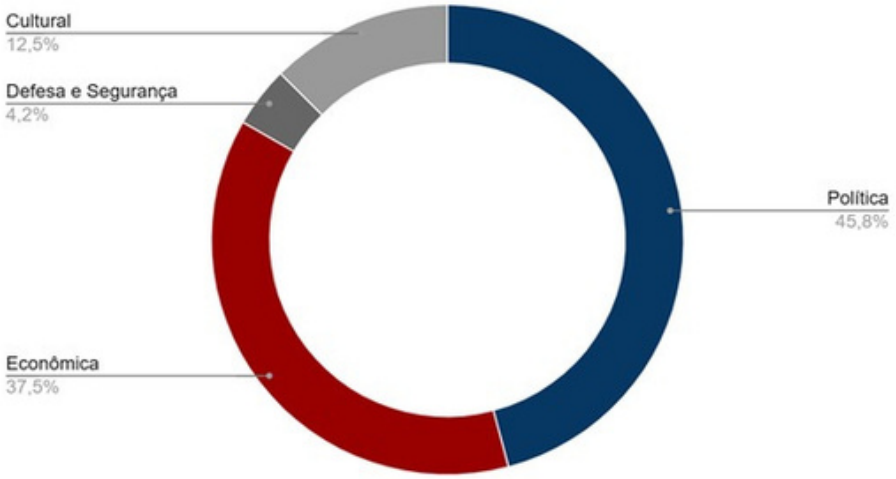
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POLITICAL RELATIONS: Colombia-Russia

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Total of juridical instruments: **24 treaties**

GRAPH 1 - DISTRIBUTION OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BY CATEGORY



HIGHLIGHTED THEMATIC AXIS

POLITICAL (45,8%)	Prevalence of the diplomatic strengthening and consultations between chancelleries
ECONOMY (37,5%)	Interest in amplifying commercial exchange and investments
CULTURAL (12,5%) and SECURITY (4,2%)	Soft power efforts and limited cooperation in defence

The character of this relationship is caution and pragmatism, marked by oscillation between technical cooperation and periods of tension and geopolitical distrust

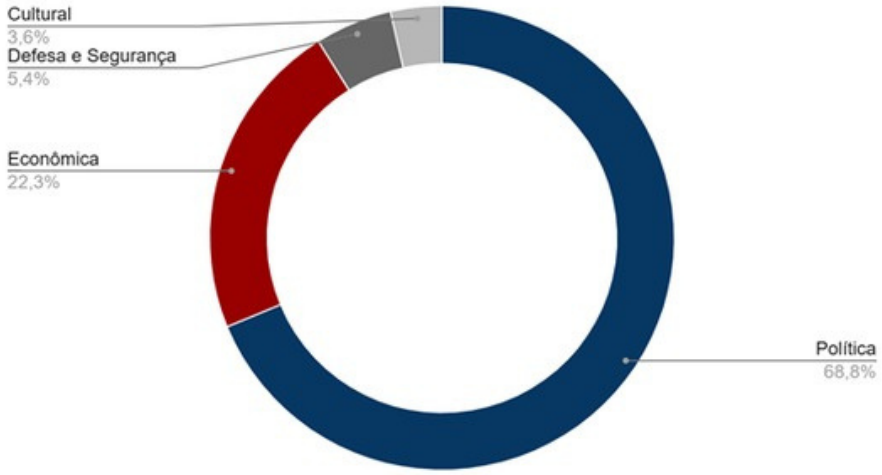
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POLITICAL RELATIONS: Colombia-Russia

MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Total of multilateral treaties: **112 treaties**

GRAPH 2: MULTILATERAL TREATIES DISTRIBUTION



THEMATIC MATRIX

Human Rights	International Security
• Protection of fundamental rights and minorities	• Peace promotion and combating terrorism

Environment	Maritime Security
• Biodiversity preservation and climatic actions	• Law of the Sea and naval regulations

SHARED FORUMS MAP

UN	Acting in international security: Russia as a permanent member and Colombia as a rotative member in the Security Council
BRICS+ / NDB	Colombia isn't a member in the bloc, however it became an official member of the New Development Bank (NDB) in July of 2025
COMMIXTA	Mixed Russian-Colombian Intergovernamental Commission of Economic-Commercial and Technic-Scientific Cooperation
Rusia Latin-America Forum	Space of political and academic dialogue about cooperation between Russia and latin american countries

POLITICAL RELATIONS: Colombia-Russia

UKRAINE WAR AND THE UN

ALIGNMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Colombia kept a mostly aligned stance with the occidental bloc, condemning the Russian aggression with a recent inflection

VOTING PATTERN IN THE UN

Date	Organ	Theme of the Resolution	Colombia's vote
Mar/2022	General Assembly	Condemnation of the Russian aggression	IN FAVOR
Feb/2023	General Assembly	End of the war and territorial integrity	IN FAVOR
Feb/2025	General Assembly	Condemnation of the invasion	ABSTENTION

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Liberal Multilateralism: Defense of international law and of the UN's Charter principles

Soberanty and integrity: Unconditional respect to frontiers and to the States territorial integrity

Autonomy and mediation: Aim for independent diplomacy and focus on pacific solution of controversies

Cautionary pragmatism: Focus on technical and economic interests above ideological alignments

IMPACT IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

- The abstention in 2025 reflects the Petro's government attempt to adopting a posture of mediation and autonomy, avoiding blocs logic, however, not supporting Russia directly



RUSLAT OBSERVATÓRIO

POLITICAL RELATIONS: Colombia-Russia

INSTITUTIONAL CORE

BILATERAL PILLARS

Institucional renewal consolidated by the 1994 treaty, establishing a continuous commitment to political consultations and diplomatic dialogue

DIPLOMATIC DYNAMIC

Relationship characterized by approximation cycles and periods of distrust (espionage), seeking greater autonomy and mediation under the current management

SHARED FORUMS

Coordinated action in the UN and in the CMMIXTA mechanism. Official entry to the New Development Bank (NDB) in July of 2025

AGREEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS

MULTILATERAL

Strong engagement in the Human Rights, Environment Protection and International Security global regimes (68,8% dos tratados)

BILATERAL

Prevalence of instruments of diplomatic strengthening, mutual juridical assistance and combat against illicit traffic of intoxicating substances

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

History of academic exchange via the Leon Tolstoi Institute and agreements for mutual recognition of graduate education titles

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE: Maintenance of pragmatic channels for Russian investments and exchange of agricultural and technological products

CONNECTION TO BRICS: Entry to the NDB in 2025 opens new financial and political dialogue opportunities with the bloc

TECHNICAL COOPERATION: Potential for expansion in the informatic, civil construction and antarctic sciences sectors

CAUTIONARY PRAGMATISM: Challenges in managing the relationship with Moscow while preserving the historic alignment with the West and NATO

RUSLAT OBSERVATÓRIO