

Brazil's Lula Urges Israel and Palestine to Negotiate

Contributed by Ana Paula Marra
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Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva spent a good part of yesterday meeting with Arab leaders who came to attend the South America - Arab Countries Summit, in Brasília, capital of Brazil.

The special presidential adviser on International Affairs, Marco Aurélio Garcia, highlighted Lula's meeting with the President of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmoud Abbas.

At the meeting, according to Garcia, the Brazilian President reiterated his support for the peace negotiations between Palestine and Israel and expressed his willingness to cooperate with the Palestinian Authority in the concretization of technical assistance projects.

Garcia said that Lula also commended the Palestinians for their patience and dedication to the search for peace.

Future trade agreements with the Arab world were also among the items discussed by Lula and the representatives of Arab countries.

In Garcia's view, the tendency is for trade between the two regions to expand in the coming years.

"The vital issue of the summit is the construction of an ample space for dialogue between the Arab world and the countries of South America. This will obviously have repercussions on the multilateral political plane, but, most of all, on the plane of cultural, economic, and commercial cooperation," he said.

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