

Russia Signs \$6 Billion Investment Deals With Venezuela, Maduro Says

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Nikolas Maduro and Vladimir Putin / Kremlin.ru

Russia has signed billions of dollars worth of investment deals in Venezuela, the South American country's President Nicolas Maduro announced on Thursday after a three-day visit to Moscow.

The Venezuelan leader was in the Russian capital in an attempt to garner support for his country's ailing economy. During a bilateral meeting on Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin <u>voiced</u> his support for Maduro's "efforts to achieve mutual understanding in [Venezuela's] society as well as settle relations with the opposition."

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In a Twitter post on Thursday, Maduro <u>announced</u> that Russia had signed investment deals worth more than \$6 billion dollars in Venezuela's oil and gold sectors.

The Venezuelan President also said that a deal had been signed for Russian exports of wheat to the South American country.

Earlier in the day, Maduro called Russia a "brother country" with which Venezuela had "raised the flag for the creation of a multipolar and multicentric world."

Russia has become a key economic ally for cash-strapped Venezuela in recent years, though the Latin American country has often been unable to repay its debts. Last month, Reuters <u>reported</u> that the head of Russia's Rosneft oil giant, Igor Sechin, flew to Caracas to pressure Maduro over late oil shipments aimed at repaying loans.

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