

ASGARDIA

PARLIAMENT



Asgardia Foreign Affairs Act Edition: 11.08.2024

Third Reading

Core Principles

This Act will set the initial framework required to regulate foreign affairs by the nation of Asgardia, the first Space Nation, and enshrine its international relations in the context of peaceful uses of outer space. The Act defines the legislative parameters to establish bilateral relations with countries of Earth and with the UN, and its Specialized Agencies; and develops a foundational framework for relations with and recognition by nations of planet Earth. The Act will ensure the robust evolution of foreign affairs related to space travel and space settlement. This Act will also lay the initial foundations for achieving these objectives.

All provisions and the application of regulations in this Act will be applied in a manner consistent with the principles outlined in Asgardia's Constitution.

Legal Authority:

Asgardia Constitution Chapter 2, Article 3 Mission and 4 Supreme Values, Chapter 7, Article 29 Foreign Relations. HON 12 Focus Areas.

The Content of the legislation will include:

1. Definitions.
2. Framework for bilateral relations with earth nations.
3. Parameters for achieving global relations and mutual recognition by Earth nations.
4. Membership of the United Nations
5. Foreign Affairs protocols, responsibilities, and positions.
6. Foundational principles of foreign relations between space states

Articles

1 Definitions

- 1.1** Accountability – A situation in which those in power are held responsible for their decisions.
- 1.2** Accords – International agreements were initially thought to be for lesser subjects than covered by treaties, but now treaties are really by a different name.
- 1.3** Ambassador– The chief of a diplomatic mission; the ranking official diplomatic representative of a country or nation-state. The definition of Ambassador will align at all times with that provided, and from time-to-time amended, in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.
- 1.4** Attaché – Attachés are either junior officers in an embassy or, if more senior, officers with a professional specialization. Other similar names include diplomats, ambassadors, agents, advisors, envoys, and delegates.
- 1.5** Bilateral – Bilateral discussions or negotiations are between a state and one other. A bilateral treaty is between one state and one other. "Multilateral" is used when more than two states are involved.
- 1.6** Conference or Congress – International meetings. In the diplomatic sense, a congress has the same meaning as a conference.
- 1.7** Consular Agent – An official doing consular work for a nation in a locality that does not maintain a regular consulate. This official is usually a host state national, and his work is generally part-time.
- 1.8** Consulate – An office established by one state in an essential city of another state to support and protect its citizens traveling or residing there.
- 1.9** Convention – An agreement between two or more states, often more, concerning matters of common interest. While supposedly used for lesser matters than embraced in a treaty, it frequently deals with essential subjects – international postal and copyright laws, such as the law of the sea.
- 1.10** Credentials – The accreditation letters granted to an ambassador by the Head of a nation-state related to foreign affairs qualifications or certifications.
- 1.11** Delegation - In diplomacy, this term is used in two senses. "Delegation" refers to the powers a government delegated to a diplomat acting in certain circumstances. It also refers to an official party sent to an international conference or on a special diplomatic mission.
- 1.12** Cultural Diplomacy - exchange of ideas, information, art, language and other aspects of culture among nations and peoples in order to foster mutual understanding.
- 1.13** Cybersecurity in foreign relations – systems to protect against risk of infiltration of Asgardia's systems, compromising Asgardia's networks and international relations.
- 1.14** Digital Diplomacy – solving foreign affairs issues using the Internet, internal electronic collaboration tools and mobile phone and tablet-based diplomacy.
- 1.15** Dignitary or diplomat – A generic term denoting a person who conducts regular diplomatic relations of a nation-state (foreign affairs representative)
- 1.16** Diplomatic Immunity - Exemption of foreign diplomatic agents or representatives and their diplomatic materials from terrestrial state authorities.
- 1.17** Embassy – The residence of an ambassador. In recent years, it was also inaccurately used to denote the building containing the ambassador's offices and other key staff members. The proper term for the latter is "chancery."
- 1.18** Minister, Minister-Counsellor - Apart from its cabinet-officer connotation (i.e., "foreign minister"), a minister has traditionally been the chief of diplomatic mission who headed a legation rather than an embassy.

- 1.19** MOU – Memorandum of Understanding agreement between two or more parties. Expresses a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended standard line of action.
- 1.20** NGO – non-governmental organization.
- 1.21** Passport – The official document issued to a person by their government certifying citizenship and requesting foreign governments to grant the individual safe passage, lawful aid, and protection while under that government's authority.
- 1.22** Persona Non-Grata – An individual unacceptable to or unwelcome by the host government.
- 1.23** Precedence – Priority: the right to superior honour on a ceremonial or formal occasion; for ambassadors in a country, precedence is determined by the order in which they present their credentials to the host government.
- 1.24** Protocol – Refers to the ceremonial side of diplomacy, including matters of diplomatic courtesy and precedence. Also see Diplomatic Protocol.
- 1.25** Treaty – A formal, mutually binding agreement between countries.
- 1.26** UN – United Nations
- 1.27** Visa – Written authority to enter a country for temporary or permanent residence, depending on its wording.

2 Bilateral /Multilateral Relations

- 2.1** Foreign policy shall be advanced and aligned with Asgardia's core values of equal human rights, democratic premises, peaceful relations in space, cultural heritage protections, and non-discriminatory practices.
- 2.2** Asgardia's foreign relations policies, [protocols](#), and [correspondences](#) shall be harmonious with the principles of the [United Nations](#) international relations with sovereign equality and keeping in mind the prohibition of force when engaged in international foreign ties.
- 2.3** Once implemented, Passport and visa management should harmonize with international treaties and practices.
- 2.4** Under the direction of the Asgardia Constitution and the Supreme Values, relevant foreign affairs authorities shall establish and uphold:
- 2.4.1** Regulations, rules, procedures, policies, codes, protocols, and other processes needed for foreign relations within Asgardia, United Nations, and Earth nations.
- 2.4.2** A structured foreign relations bilateral/multilateral representative system to cover Asgardia's organizational, permanent, area, district, regional, and continental ambassadorships and their representation to Earth nation-states.
- 2.4.3** When needed, a United Nations permanent appointee.
- 2.5** Collaborative and developmental international and UN foreign relations aligning Asgardia's objectives with global initiatives, including:
- 2.5.1** Any Unions, organizations, groups, Confederations, Enterprises, agencies, NGOs, corporations, associations, and similar entities that will benefit and strengthen Asgardia's worldly foreign affairs towards bilateral/multilateral relations.
- 2.6** Codes will be developed to address the standard protocols which will be followed in order to deliver effective multilateral diplomacy. These codes will ensure consistency with the procedures established for the purpose of digital diplomacy in this Act, and as determined in legislation which must be adhered to by Asgardia in order to fulfil the requirements as laid out in bilateral agreements. These may refer to:
- 2.6.1** Human rights protocols.
- 2.6.2** Sustainable development strategies.
- 2.6.3** International security considerations.

- 2.7** Asgardia's relevant foreign affairs authorities will be responsible for the achievement of international space agreements. This process will require these authorities to:
- 2.7.1 Negotiate bilateral and multilateral treaties with other spacefaring nations and organizations.
 - 2.7.2 Ensure that no such agreement involves Asgardia in taking a position on terrestrial political disputes.
 - 2.7.3 Ensure consistency with the promotion of peaceful and cooperative use of space.
- 2.8** Where international space agreements pertain to the remit of more than one area of technical competence, operations may be delegated and shared as operationally appropriate.

3 Global relations and mutual recognition by Earth nations

- 3.1** Asgardia Space Nation will achieve global relations and recognition by ensuring relevant shall take appropriate steps to deliver the following outcomes:
- 3.1.1 Ensuring competent representation of Asgardia and governance before foreign states and international organizations;
 - 3.1.2 negotiating with foreign nation-states and international organizations in cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations;
 - 3.1.3 ensuring professional conduct with external and internal entities who are conducting foreign affairs;
 - 3.1.4 ensuring compliance with activities conducted by other Asgardian organizations, including the committees and ministries, within the scope of Asgardia's international foreign policy;
 - 3.1.5 pursuing negotiations, authorizations, approvals, and contracts for MOUs, accords, agreements, and treaties with other nation-states and entities;
 - 3.1.6 providing oversight of the foreign relations processes;
 - 3.1.7 ensuring management of foreign relations legislative and document compliance, and any related diplomatic processes;
 - 3.1.8 pursuing foreign affairs related to the development of international law and legal jurisprudence;
 - 3.1.9 creating a structured foreign relations representation such as diplomats, ambassadors, attachés, agents, advisors, envoys, delegations, and representatives of Asgardia;
 - 3.1.10 creating a structured reporting system for all foreign relation processes and representation;
 - 3.1.11 exercising due recognition towards international laws and relations relatable to matters of foreign affairs and the respect for them.
- 3.2** To secure effective recognition of Asgardia's international foreign affairs initiatives, Asgardia's relevant authorities will liaise to generate a consistent external media and public information programme for relevant specific projects. This will include material for international broadcasting.
- 3.3.** Relevant authorities will work in collaboration to proactively initiate cultural exchange programmes and other outreach initiatives to engage with the non-Asgardian public to promote the work and ambitions of Asgardia.
- 3.4** Asgardia's relevant authorities will continuously seek out existing and potential cultural and educational exchange opportunities pertaining to space, using these to promote exchanges related to space activities. This can include setting up programs for international educational collaborations, space education initiatives, and cultural projects that highlight the significance of space exploration, with organisations already engaged in this nature of activity.

- 3.5** Asgardia's relevant authorities will facilitate the generation of scientific research and exploration with entities that are external to Asgardia. This includes setting up programs for:
- 3.5.1 International scientific collaboration
 - 3.5.2 Data-sharing agreements
 - 3.5.3 Support for missions that advance knowledge about space and celestial bodies.
 - 3.5.4 Developing guidelines for ensuring the safety and security of space activities, including protecting space assets from potential threats, such as space debris or hostile actions,
 - 3.5.5. Establishing protocols for emergency response and disaster management in space.
- 3.6** A framework for space diplomacy will be established to outline:
- 3.6.1. how Asgardia will engage with other nations and international organizations regarding space exploration and utilization
 - 3.6.2. protocols for negotiation and collaboration on space missions
 - 3.6.3. protocols for space station use.
 - 3.6.4. protocols for resource sharing, including at such times of emergency.
- 3.7** The achievement of the goals and strategies laid out in this article shall rely on digital communications methods where this provides the most effective means of interaction.
- 3.8** Asgardia shall maintain an active strategic programme of public diplomacy, in order to promote its status as the nation dedicated to space habitation, and therefore uniquely placed to contribute to national and international space-related fields of commercial, cultural and diplomatic activity.

4 United Nations Membership

4.1 Membership of the United Nations is open to peace-loving nations that accept the multilateral agreements within the UN Charter. Asgardia's foreign relations will align with the scope of this charter as it relates to Asgardia. Asgardia shall adopt specific protocols suggested by the United Nations diplomatic protocol practices. The minimum requirements are as follows:

i. Ambassadorships

1. While all Asgardians are considered ambassadors of Asgardia in representation and beliefs, some ambassadors will hold an office of ambassadorship, either a paid position (civil servant) or volunteer, to represent Asgardia. These ambassadorships can be:
 - a. City, area, district, regional, countries, subcontinental and continental representatives.
 - b. [Diplomates](#), delegates, consuls, envoys, emissaries, attachés, and dignitaries.
 - c. [Permanent representatives](#) to the United Nations.
 - d. Any position directly or indirectly supporting Asgardia in an authoritative foreign relations capacity.

ii. Diplomatic Immunity

1. Asgardia will seek mutual diplomatic immunity under the international agreements found in the [Vienna Convention on](#)

Diplomatic Relations. Asgardia's diplomatic papers, articles, and materials shall be protected under the sovereignty of the Asgardia Space Nation. The following will be covered by diplomatic immunity:

- a. Asgardian foreign affairs representatives working in an official authoritative capacity.
- b. Asgardia's diplomatic papers, articles, or materials contained in a diplomatic bag, the bag shall:
 - i. Not be opened or detained by foreign nation-states
 - ii. Bear visible external markings of their character as related to Asgardia
 - iii. Only contain documents, articles, or materials intended for official use
- c. Foreign affairs representatives from other nation-states and any diplomatic papers, articles, or material being carried in a diplomatic bag for official foreign affairs.

iii. Accreditation

1. Asgardia shall create a global foreign affairs accreditation program to ensure foreign affairs officers are professionally and appropriately represented.
2. Foreign affairs representatives shall have the proper educational background, work experience, and personal experience to consider accreditation.

iv. Persona Non Grata

1. The Supreme Space Council will resolve or issue matters of persona non grata.
2. Any Asgardian or other Earth nationality accused of persona non grata will be given appropriate consideration in proving their innocence or justifying their actions.
3. Any Asgardian found guilty of persona non grata by the Supreme Space Council will be relieved of duties and not allowed to conduct foreign relations for Asgardia.
4. Any foreign dignitary or diplomat (Foreign Affairs Representatives) determined to be persona non grata within Asgardia will not be allowed to conduct foreign relations with Asgardia.

4.2. Codes will be developed in association with the United Nations to ensure transparent and unambiguous protocols enabling Asgardia to operate as a member of the United Nations, with consideration for the specific challenges that are generated by Asgardia's permanent membership status.

4.3 A timetable will be established, with key milestones, to secure full nation status and membership of the United Nations. This timetable will identify:

4.3.1 The completion date for full recognition.

4.3.2 The specialised agencies with which Asgardia will align within this timetable.

4.3.3 The events and UN procedures that Asgardia will participate in to achieve its status.

4.3.4 Those responsible for achieving these targets.

4.3.5 The reporting procedures within Asgardia to ensure accountability for this programme.

5 Foreign Affairs protocols, responsibilities, and positions.

a. Foreign Affairs powers and authorities, rules and regulations, protocols, and other responsibilities shall be established through appropriate law-making processes within the scope of the Asgardia Constitution.

6 Space States Foundational Relations

- a. Asgardia Space Nation promotes the peaceful use of outer space; as such, Asgardia will conduct relations with Earth Nations concerning space. In the scope of those relations and Asgardia's membership in the United Nations, Asgardia will:
 - i. adopt and honour any relevant treaties, agreements, or conventions as they relate to the peaceful use of outer space and foreign affairs and;
 - ii. adopt and honour any core outer space declarations and principles related to foreign affairs.
- b. Asgardia Space Nation will maintain a forward-thinking, innovative, and creative foreign relations posture towards the peaceful use of outer space. In achieving this goal, Asgardia will cultivate relationships with the United Nations, Space Agencies, and any other nation-states or organizations aligned with Asgardia and the peaceful use of outer space.
- c. Asgardia's Foreign relation policies, protocols, and correspondences shall be harmonious with the United Nations, international law, and any Space related initiatives whose main objective is the peaceful use of outer space, space travel, and space habitation if those objectives align with Asgardia's Constitution, Supreme Values, and core beliefs.

7 Cybersecurity and Digital Diplomacy

7.1. Those responsible for Asgardia's safety and security shall generate provisions to ensure the cybersecurity of activities relating to digital relations with foreign entities.

7.2. Cybersecurity provisions will include protocols for digital diplomacy that protect diplomatic communications and guarantee the integrity of systems that delivery secure communications between Asgardia and other entities in an earth-earth, space-earth and space-space mode.

7.3 Cybersecurity measures will form a default element of the set-up procedures for international relations outposts, and the relevant exchanges between those outposts and Asgardia's central foreign affairs infrastructure. These measures will address:

7.3.1 Protocols for ensuring robust security of data and other diplomatic communications.

7.3.2 Securing of communication channels in the event of an identified or suspected data breach.

7.3.3 Recovery procedures in the event of a security breach.

7.3.4 These procedures will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis to ensure current best practice is embodied in these procedures.

8 Human Rights and Democracy Promotion

- 8.1.** Asgardia's foreign relations shall adhere to those rights defined by relevant provisions in legislation of Asgardia, and Constitutional Articles of Asgardia.
- 8.2.** Asgardia will operate according to its democratic values in foreign policy. Representatives of Asgardia will secure democratic authority for agreements when this is consistent with the existing democratic requirements of Asgardia's civic structure.
- 8.3.** Asgardia will not seek to interfere with the human rights or democratic arrangements of foreign powers.
- 8.4.** Asgardia's relevant foreign affairs authorities will generate mechanisms for supporting civil society organizations in foreign nations, subject to national regulations, which may cooperate with those powers and their citizens in the promotion of Asgardia's values and objectives.
- 8.5** Asgardia will participate, on request, in non-partisan human rights related activity, where this does not conflict with the tenets of the Asgardia Constitution in relation to non-interference in terrestrial political matters.
- 8.6** Amendments to protocols will be made periodically, to reflect the evolution of human rights standards and ensure consistency with United Nations protocols.

9 Environmental Diplomacy

- 9.1.** Asgardia will operate with consideration for the need to ensure environmental considerations are taken into account in relation to the nation's activities, which reflects responsible usage of limited resources.
- 9.2.** Asgardia will promote a scientifically consistent approach to its interaction with foreign nations in relation to environmental engagement.
- 9.3.** Asgardia will, in its international arrangements, adhere to principles of sustainability in space activities. This includes advocating for the sustainable use of space resources, minimizing the negative environmental impact of space missions, and promoting international cooperation to preserve the space environment for future generations.
- 9.4.** Asgardia will develop and promote a protocol-based approach to the treatment of other life forms in the Universe.
- 9.5** Asgardia will actively contribute to the promotion of internationally accepted protocols in relation to the management of space debris and risk mitigation in orbit, and on other celestial bodies.
- 9.6** Asgardia will contribute to the development of the definition of sustainable space activities, and the formation of proportionate environmental impact assessment methodologies, and their implementation on a collegiate basis, leading by example where this is economically practicable.

10 Economic Diplomacy

- 10.1** Protocols will be established by relevant authorities to define Asgardia's interaction with foreign economic entities, to maintain consistency with the economic strategies of Asgardia.
- 10.2** Trade Agreements will be facilitated by negotiations that must conclude with clear outcomes that drive Asgardia forwards towards its economic objectives.
- 10.3** Strategies for trade negotiations will follow established protocols, plus further internal protocols agreed between relevant authorities, when necessary, on an ad hoc basis for specific negotiations.
- 10.4** Negotiations in relation to Investment treaties will be delegated to relevant financial authorities.
- 10.5** In the event of unreconcilable practical or moral differences between Asgardia and foreign nations, Asgardia will reserve the right to limit its economic interaction with such powers or entities within them.
- 10.6** Asgardia will not use economic negotiations to seek to effect change in those entities and nations with which it interacts.
- 10.7** Asgardia's authorities are obliged, in their actions, to maintain consistency with the development of a robust space economy by outlining policies, where opportune to do so, that support space commerce and industry. This can include:
- 10.7.1 Providing incentives for private sector investment in space technologies.
 - 10.7.2 Developing regulations for commercial space activities.
 - 10.7.3 Generating frameworks for public-private partnerships in space ventures.
- 10.8** Asgardia will, by default, operate on the basis of seeking proactive partnerships with earth-based space ventures, sponsored by states or private business entities, where this is in the interests of the achievement of Asgardia's objectives.

11 Crisis Management

- 11.1** A streamlined operating protocol for crisis management in relation to foreign affairs shall be developed by delegated authorities. This protocol will include provisions for:
- 11.1.1 Conflict resolution with nations and entities residing outside the nation of Asgardia.
 - 11.1.2 Fast-track decision-making in the event of an urgent development requiring immediate action.
 - 11.1.3 Procedures to define how Asgardia will respond to international crisis on earth and in space of a non-political nature.
- 11.2** Asgardia will not participate in the resolution of international political crises, unless asked to do so as a neutral facilitator.
- 11.3** Asgardia will not participate in peace-keeping activity on earth or in space, except to act as a neutral facilitator when asked to do so.

11.4 Asgardia will define protocols for space-based humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as it pertains to Asgardia's contribution to these activities. Asgardia will promote international standards in both specified areas of activity.

11.5 On a case-by-case basis, Asgardia will consider contributing to earth based humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, where these actions do not contradict the tenets of the Asgardia Constitution.

12 Space Law and Governance

12.1 Asgardia will respect and adhere to established space law and governance regulations.

12.2 Where Asgardia identifies shortcomings in space law and governance regulations, these will be analysed and such dialogue with external partners will be made as are necessary to remedy these shortcomings.

12.3 Asgardia will proactively input to the establishment of laws including, but not limited to:

12.3.1 space traffic management

12.3.2 debris mitigation,

12.3.3 the responsible use of space resources

12.3.4 alignment with international treaties such as the Outer Space Treaty.

12.4 Asgardia will promote its proposals to ensure transparency and accountability in relation to space governance, being mindful of the need for international agreements to prevent conflict caused by unilateral, and potentially conflicting, endeavours and protocols between interested parties.

12.5 Asgardia will seek to ensure consistency of space law, by negotiating to remove current inconsistencies, and promoting space law development procedures which prevent such inconsistencies in future.

13 Space Settlement and Habitation

13.1 Asgardia will codify and maintain an up-to-date summary of Asgardia's long-term goals for space settlement in a manner that can be shared externally.

13.2 Provisions for space settlement will include:

13.2.1 Principles for establishing human habitats in space

13.2.2 Ethical considerations for space colonization

13.2.3 Guidelines for ensuring the well-being

13.2.4 Guidelines for upholding the rights of space settlers.

13.3 Asgardia will develop databased protocols to ensure the well-being of its citizens, specifically addressing the following considerations:

13.3.1 Psychological factors.

13.3.2 Physiological factors.

13.3.3 Social factors.

13.3.4 The interface between space cultures, which may diverge as a result of pragmatic considerations associated with long-term, and even life-long, exposure and adjustment to the off-earth environment.

13.4 Asgardia will actively participate in the creation of protocols for humankind in regard to circumstances pertaining to first contact with non-sentient, and sentient, extra-terrestrial life.