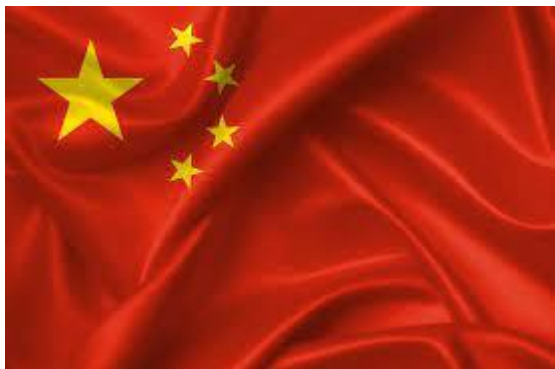


China's 2023 Foreign Relations Law



Foreign Relations Law of the People's Republic of China

(Adopted at the Third Session of the Standing Committee of the Fourteenth National People's Congress on June 28, 2023)

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The original Chinese version takes legal precedence. That can be viewed here:

https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202306/content_6888929.htm

Table of contents

Chapter I General Provisions

Chapter II Powers of Foreign Relations

Chapter III Objectives and Tasks of Developing Foreign Relations

Chapter IV The System of External Relations

Chapter V Guarantees for the Development of Foreign Relations

Chapter VI Supplementary Provisions

Chapter I: General Provisions

Article 1

In order to develop foreign relations, safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests, safeguard and develop the interests of the people, build a socialist modern power, realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, promote world peace and development, and promote the building of a community of shared future for mankind, according to the Constitution, enact this Act.

Article 2

This Law applies to the development of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the exchanges and cooperation in various fields such as economy and culture, and the development of relations with the United Nations and other international organizations.

Article 3

The People's Republic of China adheres to the guidance of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of "Three Represents", the Scientific Outlook on Development, and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era to develop foreign relations and promote friendly exchanges.

Article 4

The People's Republic of China adheres to an independent foreign policy of peace and adheres to the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

The People's Republic of China adheres to the path of peaceful development, adheres to the basic national policy of opening up, and pursues a mutually beneficial and win-win opening strategy.

The People's Republic of China abides by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, maintains world peace and security, promotes global common development, and promotes the establishment of a new type of international relations; advocates the peaceful settlement of international disputes, opposes the use of force or the threat of force in international relations, and opposes hegemony and power politics; adhere to the equality of all countries regardless of size, strength, and wealth, and respect the development path and social system independently chosen by the people of all countries.

Article 5

The foreign affairs of the People's Republic of China adhere to the centralized and unified leadership of the Communist Party of China.

Article 6

State organs and armed forces, political parties and people's organizations, enterprises, institutions and other social organizations, and citizens have the responsibility and obligation to safeguard national sovereignty, security, dignity, honor, and interests in foreign exchanges and cooperation.

Article 7

The state encourages active non-governmental friendly exchanges and cooperation with foreign countries.

Those who have made outstanding contributions to foreign exchanges and cooperation will be commended and rewarded in accordance with relevant state regulations.

Article 8

Any organization or individual who violates this Law and relevant laws and engages in activities that damage the interests of the state in foreign exchanges shall be investigated for legal responsibility according to law.

Chapter II: Powers of Foreign Relations

Article 9

The central leading agency for foreign affairs is responsible for decision-making and coordination of foreign affairs, researches, formulates, and guides the implementation of national foreign affairs strategies and relevant major policies, and is responsible for top-level design, overall coordination, overall advancement, and supervision and implementation of foreign affairs.

Article 10

The National People's Congress and its Standing Committee approve and abolish treaties and important agreements concluded with foreign countries, and exercise foreign relations powers stipulated in the Constitution and laws.

The National People's Congress and its Standing Committee actively carry out foreign exchanges and strengthen exchanges and cooperation with national parliaments, international and regional parliamentary organizations.

Article 11

The President of the People's Republic of China represents the People's Republic of China in conducting state affairs and exercising the foreign relations functions and powers prescribed by the Constitution and laws.

Article 12

The State Council manages foreign affairs, concludes treaties and agreements with foreign countries, and exercises foreign relations functions and powers prescribed by the Constitution and laws.

Article 13

The Central Military Commission organizes and conducts international military exchanges and cooperation; and exercises the functions and powers of foreign relations stipulated in the Constitution and laws.

Article 14

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China handles diplomatic affairs in accordance with the law; and undertakes diplomatic exchanges between leaders of the party and the state and leaders of foreign countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strengthens guidance, coordination, management, and services for foreign exchanges and cooperation between various departments of state agencies and regions.

The central and state organs carry out foreign exchanges and cooperation in accordance with the division of responsibilities.

Article 15

The embassies and consulates of the People's Republic of China stationed abroad, as well as the permanent missions to the United Nations and other intergovernmental international organizations, and other diplomatic institutions stationed abroad represent the People's Republic of China.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs unifies the work of diplomatic agencies stationed abroad.

Article 16

Provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government shall carry out foreign exchanges and cooperation within a specific scope according to the authorization of the central government.

The people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government handle foreign exchange and cooperation affairs in their administrative regions according to their functions and powers.

Chapter III: Objectives and Tasks of Developing Foreign Relations

Article 17

The People's Republic of China develops foreign relations, insists on maintaining the socialist system with Chinese characteristics, safeguards national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and serves the country's economic and social development.

Article 18

The People's Republic of China promotes the implementation of global development initiatives, global security initiatives, and global civilization initiatives, and promotes an all-round, multi-level, wide-ranging, and three-dimensional external work layout.

The People's Republic of China promotes coordination and positive interaction among major powers, develops relations with neighboring countries in accordance with the concept of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, and develops relations with neighboring countries based on the principles of friendship and partnership with neighbors and unites and cooperates with developing countries by upholding the concept of sincerity, amity, sincerity and the correct concept of righteousness and interests. Maintain and practice multilateralism; and participate in the reform and construction of the global governance system.

Article 19

The People's Republic of China upholds the international system with the United Nations at its core, the international order based on international law, and the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

The People's Republic of China adheres to the global governance concept of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, participates in the formulation of international rules, promotes the democratization of international relations, and promotes the development of economic globalization in an open, inclusive, universally beneficial, balanced, and win-win direction.

Article 20

The People's Republic of China adheres to a common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable global security concept, strengthens international security cooperation, and improves mechanisms for participating in global security governance.

The People's Republic of China fulfills its responsibilities as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, maintains international peace and security, and maintains the authority and status of the United Nations Security Council.

The People's Republic of China supports and participates in peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations Security Council, adheres to the basic principles of peacekeeping operations, respects the territorial integrity and political independence of sovereign states, and maintains a fair stance.

The People's Republic of China maintains the international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation system, opposes the arms race, opposes and prohibits all forms of WMD-related proliferation activities, fulfills relevant international obligations, and conducts international cooperation in non-proliferation.

Article 21

The People's Republic of China adheres to the global development concept of fairness and inclusiveness, open cooperation, comprehensive coordination, and innovation linkage, and promotes the coordinated and sustainable development of the economy, society, and environment, and the all-round development of people.

Article 22

The People's Republic of China respects and protects human rights, adheres to the principle of universality of human rights in combination with its own reality, promotes the comprehensive and coordinated development of human rights, conducts international exchanges and cooperation in the field of human rights on the basis of equality and mutual respect, and promotes international human rights Healthy career development.

Article 23

The People's Republic of China advocates that all countries in the world transcend national, ethnic, and cultural differences, and promote the common values of all mankind, such as peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom.

Article 24

The People's Republic of China adheres to the concept of civilizations of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and tolerance, respects the diversity of civilizations, and promotes exchanges and dialogues among different civilizations.

Article 25

The People's Republic of China actively participates in global environmental and climate governance, strengthens green and low-carbon international cooperation, seeks to build a global ecological civilization, and promotes the establishment of a fair, reasonable, cooperative and win-win global environmental and climate governance system.

Article 26

The People's Republic of China insists on promoting high-level opening up to the outside world, developing foreign trade, actively promoting and legally protecting foreign investment, encouraging foreign investment and other foreign economic cooperation, promoting the high-quality development of the joint construction of the "Belt and Road", and maintaining multilateral trade system, oppose unilateralism and protectionism, and promote the building of an open world economy.

Article 27

The People's Republic of China conducts foreign aid through economic, technological, material, human resources, management and other means to promote the economic development and social progress of developing countries, enhance their independent and sustainable development capabilities, and promote international development cooperation.

The People's Republic of China conducts international humanitarian cooperation and assistance, strengthens international cooperation in disaster prevention, reduction and relief, and assists relevant countries in responding to humanitarian emergencies.

The People's Republic of China insists on respecting the sovereignty of other countries when carrying out foreign aid, does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, and does not attach any political conditions.

Article 28

The People's Republic of China shall carry out exchanges and cooperation in the fields of education, science and technology, culture, health, sports, society, ecology, military affairs, security, and the rule of law in accordance with the needs of developing foreign relations.

Chapter IV: The System of External Relations

Article 29

The state coordinates the advancement of domestic and foreign-related rule of law, strengthens legislation in foreign-related fields, and strengthens the construction of a foreign-related rule of law system.

Article 30

The state concludes or participates in treaties and agreements in accordance with the Constitution and laws, and performs the obligations stipulated in relevant treaties and agreements in good faith.

Treaties and agreements concluded or acceded to by the state may not contravene the Constitution.

Article 31

The State takes appropriate measures to implement and apply treaties and agreements.

The implementation and application of treaties and agreements must not damage national sovereignty, security, and social public interests.

Article 32

On the basis of abiding by the basic principles of international law and the basic norms of international relations, the state strengthens the implementation and application of laws and regulations in foreign-related fields; and takes law enforcement and judicial measures in accordance with the law to safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests, and protect China's Legal rights and interests of citizens and organizations.

Article 33

The People's Republic of China has the right to take corresponding countermeasures and restrictive measures against acts that violate international law and basic norms of international relations and endanger the sovereignty, security, and development interests of the People's Republic of China.

The State Council and its departments formulate necessary administrative regulations and departmental rules, establish corresponding work systems and mechanisms, strengthen departmental coordination, and determine and implement relevant countermeasures and restrictive measures.

The decisions made in accordance with the first and second paragraphs of this article are final.

Article 34

The People's Republic of China establishes and develops diplomatic relations with all countries in the world on the basis of the one-China principle and in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

The People's Republic of China has the right to take necessary diplomatic actions such as altering or terminating diplomatic and consular relations in accordance with the treaties and agreements concluded or acceded to, the basic principles of international law and the basic norms of international relations.

Article 35

The state takes measures to implement binding sanctions resolutions and related measures made by the United Nations Security Council in accordance with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall notify and announce the implementation of the sanctions resolutions and measures mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The relevant departments of the state and the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government shall take measures to implement them within the scope of their respective functions and powers.

Organizations and individuals in China should abide by the content of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' announcement and the relevant measures of various departments and regions, and must not engage in acts that violate the above-mentioned sanctions resolutions and measures.

Article 36

The People's Republic of China grants corresponding privileges and immunities to foreign diplomatic missions, officials of foreign countries, international organizations and their officials in accordance with relevant laws and treaties and agreements concluded or acceded to.

The People's Republic of China grants immunity to foreign countries and their properties in accordance with relevant laws and treaties and agreements concluded or acceded to.

Article 37

The state takes necessary measures in accordance with the law to protect the safety and legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens and organizations overseas, and protect the country's overseas interests from threats and infringements.

The state strengthens the overseas interest protection system, working mechanism and capacity building.

Article 38

The People's Republic of China protects the lawful rights and interests of foreigners and foreign organizations in China in accordance with the law.

The state has the right to allow or refuse entry, stay and residence of foreigners, and manage the activities of foreign organizations within the territory according to law.

Foreigners and foreign organizations in China shall abide by Chinese laws and shall not endanger China's national security, harm public interests, or disrupt public order.

Article 39

The People's Republic of China strengthens multilateral and bilateral dialogue on the rule of law, and promotes exchanges and cooperation on the rule of law with foreign countries.

The People's Republic of China conducts international cooperation with foreign countries and international organizations in the fields of law enforcement and justice in accordance with the treaties and agreements it has concluded or acceded to, or in accordance with the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

The state deepens and expands the working mechanism of foreign law enforcement cooperation, improves the judicial assistance system and mechanism, and promotes international cooperation in law enforcement and judicial fields. The state strengthens international cooperation in combating transnational crimes and anti-corruption.

Chapter V: Guarantees for the Development of Foreign Relations

Article 40

The state shall improve the comprehensive guarantee system for foreign affairs, and strengthen the ability to develop foreign relations and safeguard national interests.

Article 41

The state guarantees the funds needed for foreign work; and establishes a fund guarantee mechanism that is compatible with the needs of developing foreign relations and the level of national economic development.

Article 42

The state strengthens the building of talent teams for foreign affairs, and takes measures to promote the cultivation, use, management, service, and guarantee of talents.

Article 43

The state promotes public understanding and support for foreign affairs through various means.

Article 44

The state promotes the construction of international communication capabilities, promotes the world to better understand and understand China, and promotes exchanges and mutual learning among human civilizations.

Chapter VI: Supplementary Provisions

Article 45

This Law shall come into force on July 1, 2023.