

# CANNABIS AMENDMENT, UN DRUG TREATIES

TO: UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL  
AN AMENDMENT REMOVING CANNABIS  
FROM 1961 SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

The undersigned Nation and Party does hereby propose the following Amendment of the Single Convention On Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, pursuant to Article 47:

Text of the Amendment: Delete any mention of “cannabis,” “cannabis plant” and “cannabis resin” from the treaty and all its Schedules.

The Reasons for the Amendment: Cannabis, otherwise commonly known as marijuana, is the most commonly used illegal drug. According to the Report of the Global Commission on Drug Policy (2011), 160 million people were using cannabis in 2008, and its use increased by 8.5 percent over the preceding ten-year period, in spite of the prohibition of its recreational use and despite harsh prison sentencing and imprisonment of violators, some for life sentences for “serious offenses.” (Art. 36, par. 1(a))

In Uruguay, recreational cannabis use is legal. In four states of the United States, cannabis is legal and regulated by virtue of free elections, referendums and popular vote of the people. Such common use of cannabis exhibits disrespect for the treaty and the law and, therefore, its enforcers and criminal justice

institutions. Furthermore, the prohibition of cannabis incentivizes its cultivation as evidenced by the Drug Threat Assessment report (2008) of the U.S. Department of Justice, Intelligence Center that Mexico then produced 21,500 metric tons of cannabis yearly, and its 2013 report show THC-levels increasing since 2008. Elimination of the prohibition would reduce prison populations, revive individual freedom regarding cannabis use, eliminate the lure of illegality for the young, prevent corruption, allow reallocation of prohibition dollars to useful purpose, deprive criminal organizations of drug revenue and restore respect for the rule of law and government institutions.

PARTY TO THE CONVENTION

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AUTHORIZED NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

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DATE

DRAFT AMENDMENT PROVIDED COURTESY OF  
JIM GIERACH OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST PROHIBITION  
(LEAP)

1-781-393-6985

Mar 10th, 2015

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