

# **UN Single Convention Treaty on Narcotic Drugs. (Excerpts). 1961, Signed by the USA, 1968.**

Preamble:

The parties,

Concerned with the health and welfare of mankind,

Recognizing that the medical use of narcotic drugs continues to be indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering and that adequate provisions must be made to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs for such purposes,

Recognizing that addiction to narcotic drugs constitutes a serious evil for the individual and is fraught with social and economic danger to mankind,

Conscious of their duty to prevent and combat this evil,

Considering that effective measures against abuse of narcotic drugs require co-ordinated and universal action,

Understanding that such universal action calls for international co-operation guided by the same principles and aimed at common objectives,

Acknowledging the competence of the United Nations in the field of narcotics control and desirous that the international organs concerned should be within the framework of that Organization,

\*Desiring to conclude a generally acceptable international convention replacing [10] existing treaties on narcotic drugs, limiting such drugs to medical and scientific use, and providing for continuous international co-operation and control for the achievement of such aims and objectives,

Hereby agree as follows:

## **Article 1: DEFINITIONS**

1. Except where otherwise expressly indicated or where the context otherwise requires, the following definitions shall apply throughout the Convention:

... (b) "Cannabis" means the flowering or fruiting tops of the cannabis plant (excluding the seeds and leaves when not accompanied by the tops) from which the resin has not been extracted, by whatever name they may be designated.

(c) "Cannabis plant" means any plant of the genus cannabis.

(d) "Cannabis resin" means the separated resin, whether crude or purified, obtained from the cannabis plant. ...

(i) "Cultivation" means the cultivation of the opium poppy, coca bush or cannabis plant.

(j) "Drug" means any of the substances in Schedules I and II, whether natural or synthetic....

(n) "Manufacture" means all processes, other than production, by which drugs may be obtained, and includes refining as well as the transformation of drugs into other drugs. ...

(s) "Preparation" means a mixture, solid or liquid, containing a drug.

(t) "Production" means the separation of opium, coca leaves, cannabis and cannabis resin from the plants from which they are obtained.

(u) "Schedule I," "Schedule II," "Schedule III" and "Schedule IV" mean the correspondingly numbered list of drugs or preparations annexed to this Convention, as amended from time to time in accordance with Article 3.

## **Article 2: SUBSTANCES UNDER CONTROL**

... 7. The opium poppy, the coca bush, the cannabis plant, poppy straw and cannabis leaves are subject to the control measures prescribed in Articles 22 to 24; 22, 26 and 27; 22 and 28; 25; and 28, respectively.

### Article 3: CHANGES IN THE SCOPE OF CONTROL

1. Where a Party or the World Health Organization has information which in its opinion may require an amendment to any of the Schedules, it shall notify the Secretary-General and furnish him with the information in support of the notification.

### Article 28: CONTROL OF CANNABIS

1. If a Party permits the cultivation of the cannabis plant for the production of cannabis or cannabis resin, it shall apply thereto the system of controls as provided in Article 23 [below] respecting the control of the opium poppy.

2. This Convention shall not apply to the cultivation of the cannabis plant exclusively for industrial purposes (fiber and seed) or horticultural purposes.

3. The Parties shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to prevent the misuse of, and illicit traffic in, the leaves of the cannabis plant

### Article 23: NATIONAL OPIUM AGENCIES

1. A Party that permits the cultivation of the opium poppy for the production of opium shall establish, if it has not already done so, and maintain one or more government agencies (hereafter in this article referred to as the Agency) to carry out the functions required under this article.

2. Each such Party shall apply the following provisions to cultivation of the opium poppy for the production of opium and to opium:

(a) The Agency shall designate the areas in which, and the plots of land on which, cultivation of the opium poppy for the purpose of producing opium shall be permitted.

(b) Only cultivators licensed by the Agency shall be authorized to engage in such cultivation.

(c) Each license shall specify the extent of the land on which cultivation is permitted.

(d) All cultivators of the opium poppy shall be required to deliver their total crops of opium to the Agency. The Agency shall purchase and take physical possession of such crops as soon as possible, but not later than four months after the end of the harvest.

(e) The Agency shall, in respect of the opium, have the exclusive right of importing, exporting, wholesale trading and maintaining stocks other than those held by manufacturers of opium alkaloids, medicinal opium or opium preparations. Parties need not extend this exclusive right to medicinal opium and opium preparations.

3. The governmental functions referred to in paragraph 2 shall be discharged by a single government agency if the constitution of the Party concerned permits it.

### Article 46: DENUNCIATION

1. After the expiry of two years from the date of the coming into force of this Convention (Article 41–1) any Party may, on its own behalf or on behalf of a territory for which it has international responsibility and which has withdrawn its consent given in accordance with Article 42, denounce this Convention by an instrument in writing deposited with the Secretary-General.

### Article 47: AMENDMENTS

1. Any Party may propose an amendment to this Convention. The text of any such amendment and the reasons therefore shall be communicated to the Secretary-General who shall communicate them to the Parties and to the Council. (BACH SC-9104)