

International Drug Control Conventions

A special group among
medicines are:

- Narcotic drugs and
- Psychotropic substances.

They differ by the degree and level of damage
in the human body.

Over there, they can be misused.

The international drug control
system is based
on the principles of

1. national control by States as well as
2. international cooperation between States
3. and with the United Nations bodies

in compliance with the provisions of legally
binding treaties

(Conventions)

The purpose of the Conventions is to provide Governments with the necessary tools to address

- Drug production,
- Drug trafficking and
- Drug abuse problems
(individually and collectively).

The World Health Organization (WHO),
through its
Expert Committee on Drug Dependence,
is designated
by the 1961 and 1971 Conventions
to make recommendations, according to
established criteria, if a new substance
should be brought under international
control
and to what degree control it should be
subjected.

The Central drug policy-making body
within the United Nations System is

**The Commission on Narcotic
Drugs (CND).**

**This Commission has important functions
under the drug control treaties in force
today.**

The **Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)**
considers:

- the economic,
- social,
- legal and
- administrative factors

and then decides whether or not
to include the substance
in one of the schedules
of the appropriate convention.

Each of the major conventions
relating to drug control

now has over 140
signatories.

There are **three** major international drug control treaties currently in force:

- 1961 The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs
- 1971 The Convention on Psychotropic Substances
- 1988 The UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

These 3 United Nations
conventions embody the
efforts of the international
community to cooperate in
the field of drug abuse
control.

These 3 UN conventions

Also contain the principal objective of all previous international conventions in this field, namely to restrict the use of drugs to purely medical and scientific purposes.

The UN drug control conventions
do not recognize a distinction
between licit and illicit drugs
and describe only the use as
licit or illicit.

The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs

At the time it was drafted, the convention had three goals:

- 1. to codify all previously existing multilateral treaties in drug control;
- 2. to simplify and streamline the control machinery by creating a single unified supervisory body, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB); and
- 3. to extend the existing control systems to the plants cultivated to provide the raw material for narcotic drugs.

The 1961 Convention exercises control
over more than 116 narcotic drugs.

They include mainly plant-based
products such as opium, coca
and cannabis and their
derivatives, such as heroin and
cocaine, but also synthetic
narcotics such as methadone.

This convention 1961

divides drugs into 4 groups or
schedules

in order to enforce a greater or lower
degree of control for the various
substances and compounds.

Traditional uses such as opium
smoking and eating, coca leaf
chewing and cannabis-resin
smoking are also prohibited.

The 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances

Growing concern over the harmful effects of mood altering synthetic substances led in 1971 to the adoption of the Convention of Psychotropic Substances. Until then, only narcotic drugs were subject to international control.

By this convention the international drug control system was considerably expanded to include:

- hallucinogens, such as LSD;
 - stimulants, such as amphetamines;
- and sedative-hypnotics, such as barbiturates, benzodiazepines.

In view of the wide variety of substances
subject to control
under the 1971 Convention,
the differences in the risks arising from
the abuse of these substances and their
addictive properties, and their widely
varying therapeutic values, the necessary
control measures were categorized
in four separate 'Schedules'.

Schedule 1 lists those substances which are completely prohibited except for scientific and limited medical purposes.

The other three schedules are progressively more permissive of use, with appropriate controls, in medical practice and scientific work. **The scheduling of the substances was entrusted to the World Health Organization (WHO).**

The 1988 United Nations

Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

This convention

- was established to facilitate confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking and to restrict the freedom of movement of drug traffickers.
 - One of its provisions concerns the tracing, freezing and confiscation of income and property derived from drug trafficking. After the provisions of the convention **are incorporated in national legislation** the courts are empowered to make available or to seize bank, financial or commercial records. Bank secrecy cannot be invoked in such cases.

The **United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)** and the **UNITED NATIONS CENTRE for International Crime Prevention (CICP)**

are part of the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, which was formerly called the **United Nations Office for Drug Control & Crime Prevention (ODCCP)**.

UNDCP cooperates with several governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as with the business community.

It is presently drawing up plans for a more concentrated approach to cooperation with the private sector.

Its team of experts helps requesting states to become party to and give effect to the United Nations drug control conventions.

UNDCP also performs laboratory services, provides training materials and can refer those in need to the appropriate medical advice.

Data on Illicit Drugs

UNDCP gathers much of its information on the supply and demand for illicit drugs from its Member States through the UNDCP Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ), which is designed to provide information on a country's drug problems and the steps taken to address them.

Parties to the 3 international drug control conventions

are required to complete the questionnaire annually.

UNDCP sends the questionnaire to most countries of the world, and it is completed and returned also by many countries not party to the conventions.

Thanks for your attention



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