

Reference: C.N.88.2013.TREATIES-VI.18 (Depositary Notification)

SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, 1961, AS AMENDED BY THE
PROTOCOL AMENDING THE SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC
DRUGS, 1961

NEW YORK, 8 AUGUST 1975

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: OBJECTION TO THE RESERVATION CONTAINED IN THE
COMMUNICATION BY THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA¹

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary,
communicates the following:

The above action was effected on 3 January 2013.

(Translation) (Original: Russian)

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations presents its
compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his capacity as depositary and, with
reference to his note No. C.N.829.2011.TREATIES-28 (depositary notification) of 10 January 2012
concerning the receipt of the instrument of accession of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the Single
Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, together with a reservation formulated pursuant to article 50,
paragraph 3, of the Convention, declares the following:

Pursuant to article 19 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969, the Russian
Federation objects to the reservation entered by the Plurinational State of Bolivia on 29 December 2011
to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single
Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (the Convention).

The Russian Federation considers the Convention one of the fundamental international legal
instruments for the control of narcotics; undermining it, including in matters relating to the coca leaf,
could have serious negative consequences in terms of the use of the coca leaf for illicit purposes,
including the cultivation of coca bush, the production of cocaine and an increased volume of illicit

¹ Refer to depositary notification C.N.829.2011.TREATIES-28 of 10 January 2012
(Communication: Bolivia (Plurinational State of)).

trafficking of cocaine. This step will also establish a dangerous precedent that might be used by other States in order to establish in their territories more liberal drug control regimes than are provided for by the Convention, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

The question of what reservations may be made to the provisions of the Convention concerning coca leaf chewing, and on what conditions, is strictly governed by the special rule set out in article 49. Pursuant to that article, the State's ability to permit temporarily the chewing of the coca leaf in its territory is clearly subject to a number of restrictions and additional obligations, the most important of which is that coca leaf chewing must be abolished within 25 years from the coming into force of the Convention. That period expired for the Plurinational State of Bolivia in 2001.

In view of the foregoing, the Russian Federation calls upon the Plurinational State of Bolivia to review its position and withdraw the aforementioned reservation.

The Russian Federation welcomes the commitment by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to take all necessary measures to continue to control the cultivation and trade of the coca leaf in order to avoid its diversion to illicit channels and the desire of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to continue being a party to the Convention.

15 January 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JGW' with a stylized flourish underneath.

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