

Treaty Lane Ask

A short explanation of what WRCL wants federal policymakers to include.

Treaty Alignment • Audience: Public / Staff / Partner • Draft v2.1 • whole-plant framework



What this resource does: Provides Hill and agency audiences with a clear summary of the treaty-alignment direction WRCL wants incorporated into federal reform efforts.

The ask

Any serious federal Cannabis bill should incorporate a treaty-alignment clause or a comparable statutory directive that mandates the executive branch to establish and carry out a lawful pathway for the United States to uphold adult-use Cannabis under international law.

Minimum contents

- A state-led interagency strategy due on a set timeline after enactment.
- An explicit requirement to evaluate an inter se pathway as the preferred option for non-medical cannabis.
- A public explanation of how industrial hemp fits differently under the treaty baseline.
- Priority-partner mapping and a diplomatic engagement plan.
- Annual progress updates to Congress.
- A clear statement that treaty work runs parallel with domestic implementation.

Why staff should care

- It reduces implementation risk by turning the issue into a concrete plan instead of just a talking point.
- It enhances the credibility of full legalization in both law and diplomacy.
- It prevents opponents from treating treaty objections as a surprise at the final stage.
- It enables Congress to demand a clear and serious answer rather than settling for vague reassurance.

WRCL position

Treaty alignment isn't just an academic appendix; it's a key part of complete legalization.

Selected source basis

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1954, as amended — Treaty baseline, including Article 28(2) industrial-hemp carveout. <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%20976/volume-976-I-14152-English.pdf>

Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, Article 41 — Primary legal basis for an inter se modification strategy. https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1969.pdf