

# Inter Se Concept Note

A plain-English overview of the inter se pathway.

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



**What this resource does:** Explains the inter se pathway in clear language so non-specialists can understand why WRCL considers it the preferred treaty-alignment option.

## Plain-English definition

An inter se agreement is an arrangement among certain parties to a multilateral treaty to modify how the treaty functions among themselves only. WRCL uses it as the preferred approach for a treaty-aligned adult-use cannabis strategy because it provides a way for like-minded states to coordinate without implying that the broader treaty system has already changed for everyone.

## Why WRCL prefers this path

- It is more tailored than ignoring the treaty problem.
- It is more collaborative than a solely unilateral approach.
- It can be combined with strong domestic controls and international cooperation commitments.
- It keeps the discussion focused on participating states rather than waiting for a universal consensus.

## Conditions WRCL should respect

- The agreement must be carefully crafted and legally reviewed.
- It should uphold and strengthen anti-diversion, public health, and anti-trafficking goals.
- It should not be oversold as easy or automatic; it is a serious diplomatic undertaking.
- It should run alongside a robust domestic framework so the United States approaches partners with credibility.

## Questions readers may raise

- **Why rely solely on interpretation?** Because interpretation is too fragile to be WRCL's main durability story.
- **Why wait for a treaty amendment?** Because amendments take longer and depend more on consensus than the desired end state.
- **Why include a fallback?** Because a serious strategy shouldn't depend on just one path succeeding on the first try.

## Bottom line

Inter se is not the entire mission. It is the preferred international route that strengthens the domestic mission.

## Selected source basis

**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](https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1969.pdf)

**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>