

Reference: C.N.732.2012.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

SWEDEN: 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 21 December 2012.

(Original: English)

“The Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations acting in his capacity as treaty depositary and has the honor to refer to the Secretary-General's note C.N.829.2011.TREATIES-28 (Depositary Notification), dated January 10, 2012, which communicated that the Secretary-General has received from the Plurinational State of Bolivia an instrument of accession to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended (the Convention), with a proposed reservation submitted in accordance with Article 50, paragraph 3 of the Convention.

The Government of Sweden fully recognizes the efforts of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to reduce the production and trade in illicit coca products. Sweden also understands the concerns that the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has expressed concerning the United Nations' drug control conventions and the traditional coca leaf chewing.

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

The United Nations' drug control conventions are the corner stones of the international legal framework for the fight against drugs. An exemption for coca leaf chewing and the growing of coca plants for this purpose risks to undermine this system and to weaken the control over cocaine production. Furthermore, the ambition expressed in the convention is the successive prohibition also of traditional uses of drugs, the chewing of coca leaves being explicitly mentioned.

The Government of Sweden has serious concerns regarding the procedure followed by the Plurinational State of Bolivia with denunciation of the Convention followed by immediate re-accession with a reservation. While article 46 of the Convention provides that any Party may denounce the Convention, the denunciation should in no case be used by a State Party for the sole purpose of formulating reservations to the Convention after re-accession. Such practice would constitute a misuse of the procedure and would undermine the basis of international treaty law and the international legal framework for the fight against drugs.

For these reasons the Government of Sweden objects to the proposed reservation by the Plurinational State of Bolivia.”

21 December 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JGW', is written below the date.

Attention: Treaty Services of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of international organizations concerned. Depositary notifications are issued in electronic format only. Depositary notifications are made available to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet at <http://treaties.un.org>, under "Depositary Notifications (CNs)". In addition, the Permanent Missions, as well as other interested individuals, can subscribe to receive depositary notifications by e-mail through the Treaty Section's "Automated Subscription Services", which is also available at <http://treaties.un.org>.