

Regulating Cannabis in Accord with International Law: Options to Explore

Friday, March 16, 2018, 1:10 – 2:00p.m.

Conference Room M5, Vienna International Center

Speakers:

Dave Bewley-Taylor, Swansea University, U.K.

Annette Henry, Cannabis Licensing Authority, Jamaica

Martin Jelsma, Transnational Institute, Netherlands

Allyn Taylor, University of Washington School of Law, U.S.

John Walsh (Moderator), Washington Office on Latin America, U.S.

Regulating cannabis for non-medical, non-scientific uses is plainly disallowed by the UN drug conventions. Nevertheless, sub-national and national jurisdictions are choosing to formally regulate adult-use cannabis, through state-level ballot initiatives and legislation, as has been occurring in the United States since 2012, or through new national laws, as in Uruguay in 2013, and as in Canada, where bills are currently under parliamentary consideration.

Such reforms pose considerable challenges to the international legal framework for drug control. This side event explores options for how countries might move forward with cannabis regulatory systems with due respect for international law.

Look for our accompanying report:

Balancing Treaty Stability and Change: Inter Se Modification of the UN Drug Control Conventions to Facilitate Cannabis Regulation