

Reference: C.N.19.2013.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

FRANCE: OBJECTION TO THE RESERVATION CONTAINED IN THE COMMUNICATION BY
THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA ¹

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, with:

Objection (Translation) (Original: French)

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, and has the honour to refer to the depositary notification of 10 January 2012 (C.N.829.2011.TREATIES-28) concerning the reservation formulated by the Plurinational State of Bolivia upon its accession to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

France is aware of the importance Bolivia attaches to the preservation of its ancestral traditions and practices and to the rights of indigenous peoples. It notes that it is within this context that Bolivia, by entering a reservation together with its instrument of accession to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, purports to preserve in its territory the cultivation and chewing of the coca leaf in its natural state.

France welcomes the assurance offered by Bolivia that it will continue to take all necessary measures to prevent the illicit production of narcotic drugs.

Nevertheless, France objects to the general reservation entered by Bolivia, as it could undermine the overall balance of the Convention and, consequently, the response to global drug trafficking. The reservation creates a risk of increased coca leaf production and of illicit exploitation of such production through drug trafficking. Furthermore, the reservation is vague and in this case disregards the principle of legal certainty, which is essential to the stability of treaty relations.

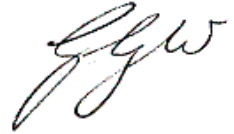
Therefore, France recalls that it will not be bound in relation to Bolivia by the provisions that Bolivia purports to exclude from the scope of obligations imposed on the parties within the meaning of the Convention. It expresses the hope that Bolivia will apply a restrictive interpretation to the scope of the provisions it does not intend to implement. France does not, by means of this objection, purport to oppose Bolivia's becoming a party to the Convention, pursuant to article 50, paragraph 3, of the Convention, and it reaffirms the importance it attaches to Bolivia's continued engagement in action against narcotic drugs.

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the United

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Nations Secretariat, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

8 January 2013



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

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