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# Media Release



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## **Issue: *International Task Force on Strategic Drug Policy Provides Commentary on Colorado's Legalized Pot Experiment***

[*"Permissibility, availability and accessibility - all increase consumption."* Dalgarno Institute.]

(St. Petersburg, FL) A commentary recently published in the Journal of Global Drug Policy and Practice ([www.globaldrugpolicy.org](http://www.globaldrugpolicy.org)) entitled, Colorado Consequences, provides a global perspective of various experts from over 35 countries on Colorado's recent experiment to legalize marijuana. Community leaders and other professionals from around the world question, not only the conflict regarding state and federal drug laws in the U.S., but also the violation of treaties of the United Nations.

"The world should take note of the issues raised in this statement from the International Task Force on Strategic Drug Policy because there is no doubt that legalizing and normalizing marijuana in Colorado will be a public health disaster,' said Calvina Fay, Executive Director of Drug Free America Foundation, a non-governmental organization (NGO) in special consultative status with the United Nations. "Increases in drugged driving, domestic violence and marijuana use by youth and an infestation of drug tourism is sure to follow this ill-fated experiment," continued Fay. "The passage of this state initiative is a blow to drug control and it is certainly worthwhile to note that keeping marijuana illegal is a U.S. treaty obligation under the 1961 International Convention on Narcotic Drugs which is supported by two other conventions -- the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Drugs and the 1988 Anti-Trafficking Convention. The U.S. was a prime mover of these multilateral treaties and largely responsible for their approval and ratification by virtually every country in the world. Now our government completely ignores our treaty obligations," Fay concluded.

The President of the United Nation's International Narcotics Control Board, Raymond Yans, has been keeping close tabs on the issue. His office has released several statements voicing the board's concerns on this issue. When legalization was passed in Colorado and Washington State in November of 2012, Yans said, "Legalization of cannabis within these states would send wrong and confusing signals to youth and society in general, giving the false impression that drug abuse might be considered normal and even, most disturbingly, safe. Such a development could result in the expansion of drug abuse, especially among young people, and we must remember that all young people have a right to be protected from drug abuse and drug dependency." Then, again in March of 2013, Yans stressed in statements released by his office that the U.S. was in violation of UN treaty agreements.

Ian Oliver, a member of the International Task Force on Strategic Drug Policy from the United Kingdom said, “The failure of the U.S. Government to prevent this dangerous move by the State of Colorado and any others that follow this shocking and irresponsible example will cause a great deal of harm globally that could and should have been avoided.”

The Dalgarno Institute has over 150 year tradition of minimizing harm by maximizing prevention. The disturbing social experiment that is ‘Pot legalisation’ is and will have far reaching and very negative implications on future generations, societies, health care and economies. These realities have not been considered at all in this rash process.

For more and comprehensive information on the dangers of drug legalization and effective alternatives and demand reduction strategies, please go to [www.dontlegalisedrugs.org](http://www.dontlegalisedrugs.org)

END

For comment or interview on this matter, please contact The Dalgarno Institute on 1300 975 002

**Dalgarno Institute**

[admin@dalgarnoinstitute.org.au](mailto:admin@dalgarnoinstitute.org.au)

**P: 1300 975 002 F: 1300 952 551**



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