



Lima | 2019

Group American Cannabinoid Specialist

Lima declaration on cannabis for medical use

Gathered in the city of Lima, Peru; on January 10, 2019; the undersigned – henceforth the Group American Cannabinoid Specialist – we want to communicate, to those who have responsibility in taking decisions in our governments, at national and international level, regarding Cannabis regulations, which framed in the "*Universal Declaration of Human Rights*"; "*Declaration on science and the use of scientific knowledge*"; "*International Code of Medical Ethics*" and "*Declaration of principles on information about medicines to patients*"; together with the "*United Nations Development Program*"; "*The American Convention on Human Rights – San José, Costa Rica; opened to signature in 1939*", "*Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Economic, Social and Cultural areas – San Salvador Protocol*" and the "*International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*"; we wish to state the following:

Considering

That there are people suffering from diseases that can be found in **Phytocannabinoids relief to their ailments**, since **Cannabis is a medicinal plant, with proven therapeutic effects** and its medicinal use dates back thousands of years.

That the International Conventions on drugs allow medicinal use and for scientific research purposes of Cannabis.

That the use of Cannabis or some of its derivatives **does not represent a lethal risk** to the health of people and their **adverse effects are reversible.**

That the classification of Cannabis and its derivatives, within **substances subject to international control**, has been **asynchronous with the scientific investigation** of its use for medicinal purposes, so it has probably been done with errors or omissions.

That the discretion imposed unilaterally, by the signatories of the International Conventions in this matter, has accentuated the **criminalization of the use of this medicinal plant.**

That the regulation in some of our countries is **insufficient and exclusive** for important population groups, due to the **lack of understanding of international agreements**, the **lack of information**, and the **strong propaganda of anti-drug** interest groups in the world.

That some countries in the region have even managed to regulate these substances with **controls not contemplated by the International Conventions**, depriving patients of access to pain killers.

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That the States that have regulated the medicinal use of Cannabis have demonstrated safety and efficacy with respect to the use of this plant, and various social indicators are reflecting the **positive impacts** of these measures.

That because of the above, the regulatory policies so far imposed – both for Cannabis and for the other substances subject to control by some countries – **far from exercising effective controls that contribute to improving the public health** of our peoples, **threatens the right to access the highest level of health possible**.

That as a consequence of the above, the current legislations have:

Prevented formal access – medical, legal– by potentially beneficiary patients.

Generated unnecessary sanitary risk given the informal – illegal, clandestine – access to this medication option.

Positioned a barrier to scientific research, education in this area and its subsequent dissemination academic.

Impediment been handling plant **within the professional health practice**.

It is one of the main causes of deprivation of liberty and legal proceedings of citizens including **patients and health professionals** in America.

Generated an important **source of economic income for criminal organizations**, increasing the real damage they produce in society.

In consequence

It requires to the General Assembly of the United Nations to facilitate the access to Cannabis for those who need it under medical criteria.

Are required to our governments to regulate the access to the Cannabis plant and its derivatives based on the Single Convention of 1961, which allows medicinal use and for scientific research of all species listed.

It is suggested to the Governments of the American continent to **update their national legislations** based on criteria purely scientific. To facilitate the regulation of the exchange of Cannabis for medicinal purposes or scientific investigation.

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The Sanitary and Scientific Authorities are called to keep informed, for the decision making based on scientific evidence, without fear of repressions of other natures.

The Health and Interior authorities of each country are required to coordinate efforts to favor access medicinal and for scientific research purposes of Cannabis.

It is exhort to **Health Professionals to contribute with the informed** access to patients who require therapy based on of cannabis.

It is called **health professionals and patients to actively participate** and be vigilant in political processes from their countries.

It is requested to **people** who require to participate actively, continue to **defend their right to the effective access, informed use and legal** access for medicinal purposes, and to receive therapies based on Cannabis.

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