**Study Guide**

**Committee:** UNODC

**Premise:** Should countries accept the fact that marijuana consume has been rising during the last days and legalize its use?

**Presidents:** Maria Jose Mendez, Maria Alejandra Guativonza

**Introduction**

The consume of Marijuana has risen after the past few years, more and more people have access to this hallucinogen plant and every day younger people start taking it. In this committee we will discuss whether or not countries should accept the fact of the rising consumes of Cannabis plant and follow Uruguay’s example and legalize its use.

We are looking forward to encourage delegates to argument and defend their positions with coherent statements and using the correct parliamentary language during the session. We also invite you to participate in an active way during the meeting and give your best on it.

**Uses of Marijuana**

[Pain](http://www.webmd.com/pain-management/default.htm) is the main reason people ask for a prescription, says Barth Wilsey, MD, a pain medicine specialist at the University of California Davis Medical Center. It could be from [headaches](http://www.webmd.com/migraines-headaches/default.htm), a disease like [cancer](http://www.webmd.com/cancer/), or a long-term condition, like [glaucoma](http://www.webmd.com/eye-health/glaucoma-eyes)or [nerve pain](http://www.webmd.com/brain/nerve-pain-and-nerve-damage-symptoms-and-causes).

If you live in a state where medical marijuana is legal and your doctor thinks it would help, you’ll get a “marijuana card.” You will be put on a list that allows you to buy marijuana from an authorized seller, called a dispensary.

Doctors also may prescribe medical marijuana to treat:

* Muscle spasms caused by multiple sclerosis
* Nausea from cancer chemotherapy
* Poor appetite and weight loss caused by chronic illness, such as [HIV](http://www.webmd.com/hiv-aids/default.htm), or nerve pain
* Seizure disorders
* Crohn's disease

The FDA has also approved THC, a key ingredient in marijuana, to treat nausea and improve appetite. It's available by prescription [Marinol](http://www.webmd.com/drugs/drug-9308-marinol%2Boral.aspx) ([dronabinol](http://www.webmd.com/drugs/drug-8774-dronabinol%2Boral.aspx)) and [Cesamet](http://www.webmd.com/drugs/drug-144710-cesamet%2Boral.aspx)([nabilone](http://www.webmd.com/drugs/drug-144706-nabilone%2Boral.aspx)).

<http://www.webmd.com/pain-management/features/medical-marijuana-uses>

**7 uses for medical marijuana**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/03/07/health/gallery/uses-for-medical-marijuana/>

Marijuana refers to the dried leaves, flowers, stems, and seeds from the hemp plant Cannabis sativa, which contains the psychoactive (mind-altering) chemical delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), as well as other related compounds. This plant material can also be concentrated in a resin called hashish or a sticky black liquid called hash oil*.*

## How is Marijuana Used?

Marijuana is usually smoked in hand-rolled cigarettes (joints) or in pipes or water pipes (bongs). It is also smoked in blunts—cigars that have been emptied of tobacco and refilled with a mixture of marijuana and tobacco. Marijuana smoke has a pungent and distinctive, usually sweet-and-sour, odor. Marijuana can also be mixed in food or brewed as a tea.

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal drug in the U.S. and the world, and was a well-established medicine until it was federally criminalized in 1937. A majority of Americans believe marijuana should be legally regulated.

## **Fact #1: Roughly 750,000 people are arrested for marijuana each year, the vast majority of them for simple possession, with racial minorities over-represented.**

## **Fact #2: Most marijuana users never use any other illicit drug.**

## **Fact #3: Increasing admissions for treatment are a reflection of the criminal justice system’s predominant role, rather than increasing rates of clinical dependence.**

## **Fact #4: Marijuana potency is not related to risk of dependence or health impacts.**

## **Fact #5: Marijuana can be good for mental health.**

## **Fact #6: Marijuana can be protective against the formation of cancer.**

## **Fact #7: Marijuana has been proven helpful for treating the symptoms of a variety of medical conditions. The body's endocannabinoid system may explain why.**

## **Fact #8:  Rates of marijuana use among young people tend to DECREASE when a state adopts medical marijuana.**

## **Fact #9:  Marijuana does not cause long-term cognitive impairment in adult users.**

## **Fact #10: There is no compelling evidence that marijuana contributes substantially to traffic accidents and fatalities.**

<http://www.drugpolicy.org/drug-facts/10-facts-about-marijuana>

**Arrest Reports**

It is with great amazement and bewilderment that 'anti-drug' bureaucrats and so-called 'anti-drug' groups insist on spreading the 'Big Lie' that "no one in the U.S. is arrested on marijuana charges."

This is a patently absurd statement in the face of [overwhelming evidence](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=5444) to the contrary.

Do you think that the 12 million citizens who have been arrested on marijuana charges in the U.S. since 1965 believe otherwise?

Below are reports on annual marijuana arrests since 1965, county-by-county marijuana arrests, racial disparity in marijuana arrests and arrests of the rich, famous and political.

<http://norml.org/library/arrest-reports>

**More about Marijuana laws**

<http://www.usmarijuanalaws.com/>

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-medical-marijuana-laws.aspx>

**Pagina oficial del país**

**Factbook CIA**

[**http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html?ref=menutop**](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html?ref=menutop)