

Codifying Harm Reduction into International Law

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International Drug Law Advocacy & Resource Center 64 Years Past Expiry Date

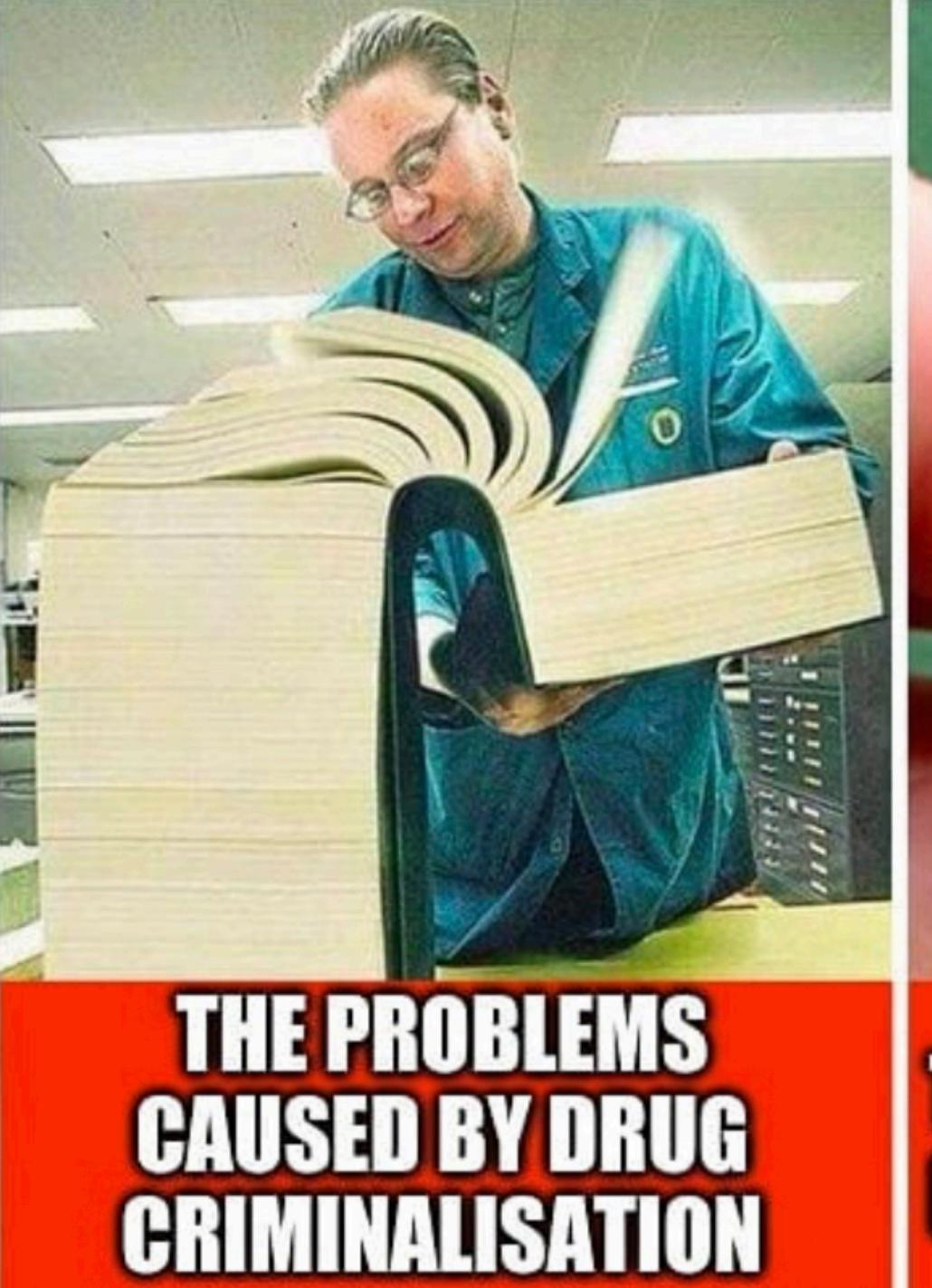


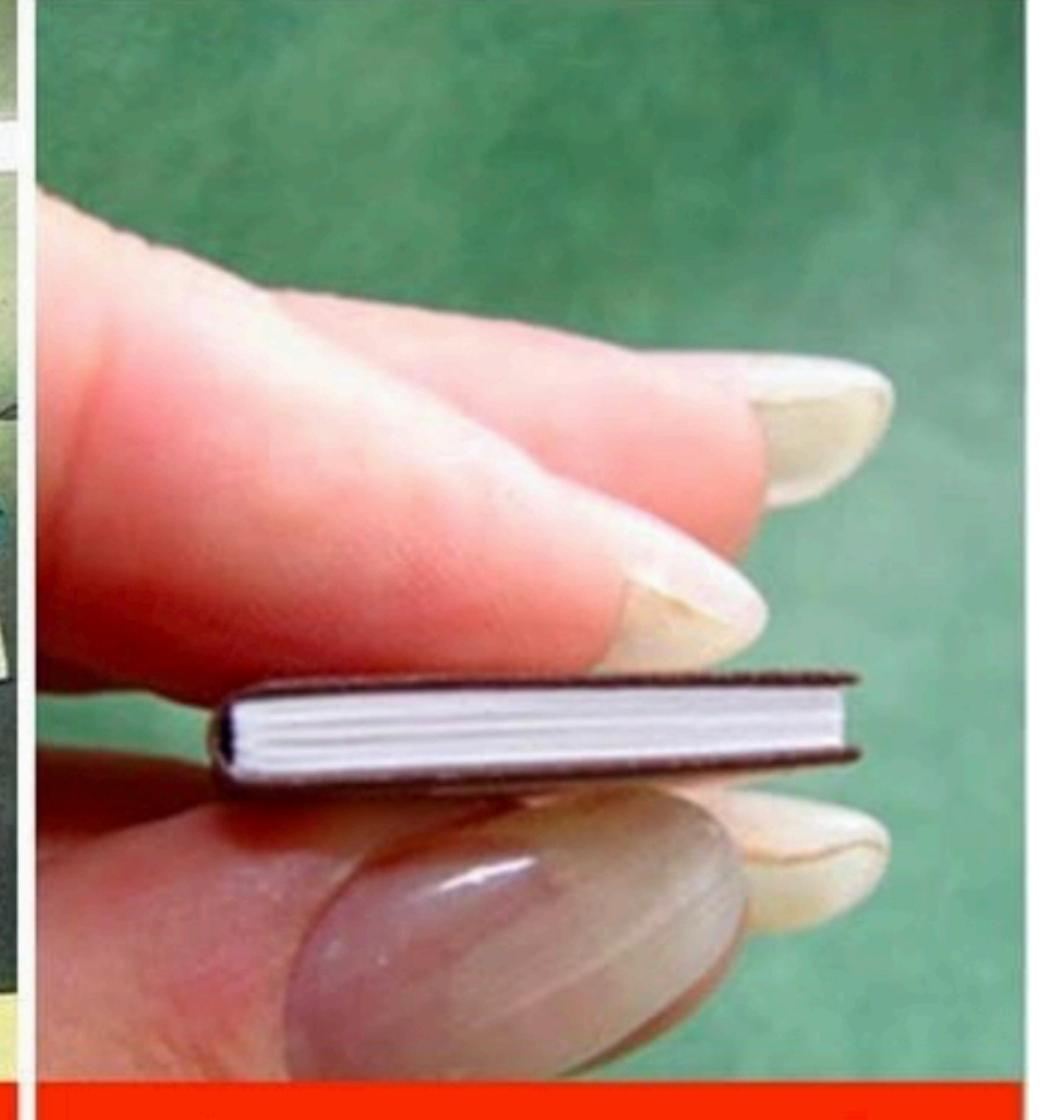
as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961



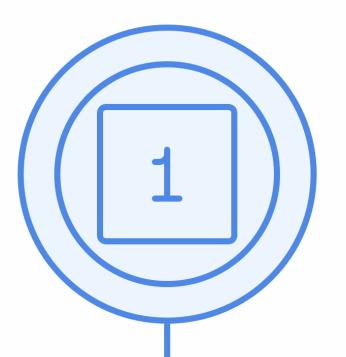
Currently the only binding law is concerned with enforcementand prohibition-based "war on drugs" provisions

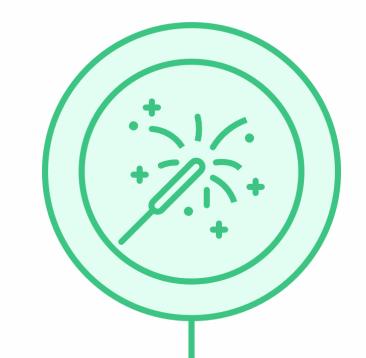




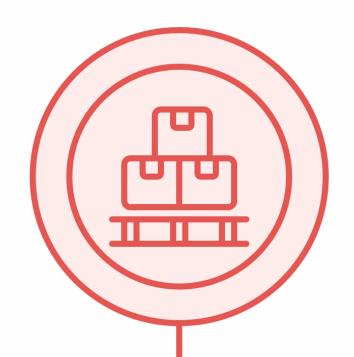


THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY DRUGS THEMSELVES









1961 Single **Convention on Narcotic Drugs**

Consolidated all previous treaties to eliminate nonmedical drug use

1971 **Convention on Psychotropic Substances**

Addressed the rise of psychedelics in the 1960s

1972 **Amendment to** Single Convention

Amended to enforce national drug laws and promote rehabilitation

1988 Convention **Against Illicit** Traffic

Responded to increased drug trafficking

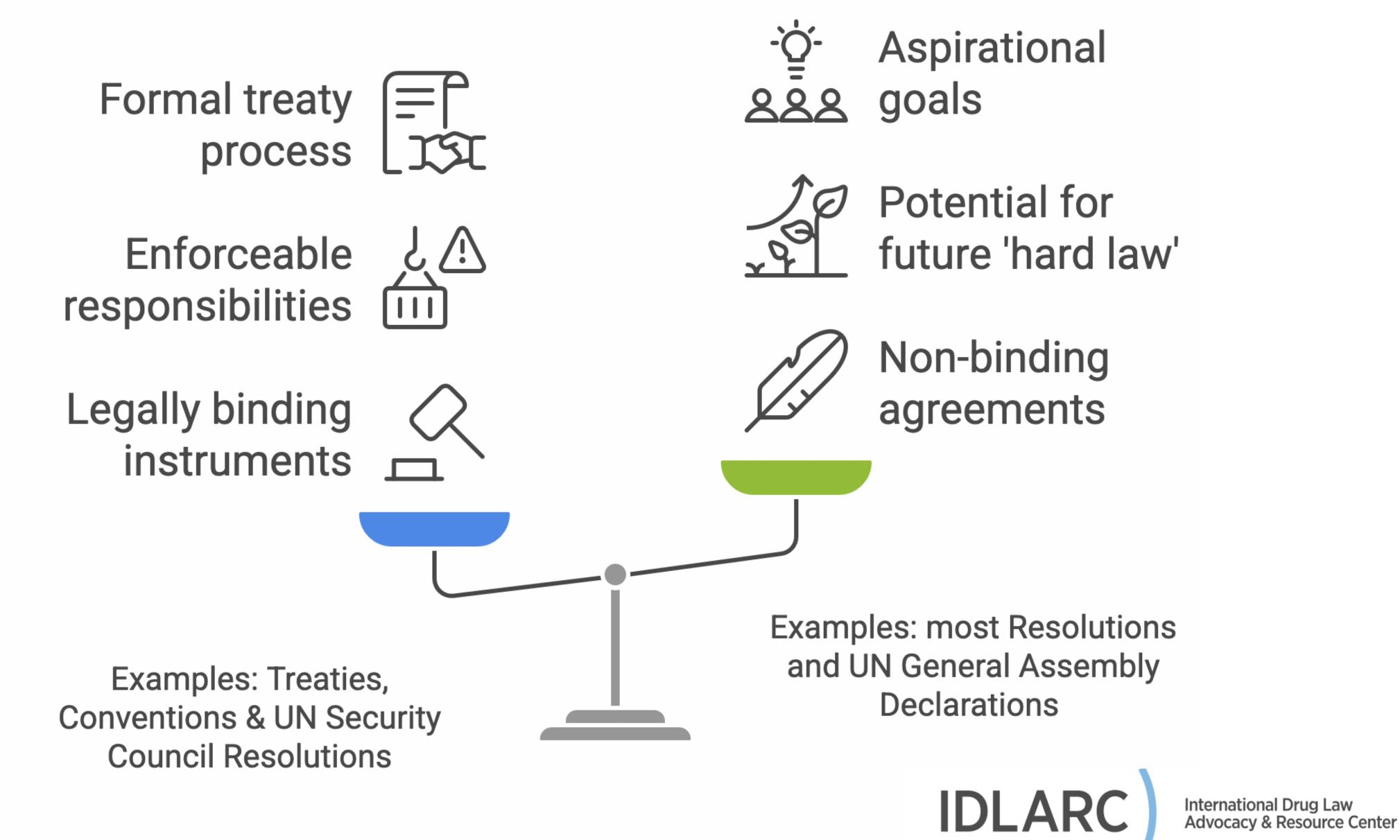




An ambitious but achievable plan to correct the deficiencies of the international drug control regime, based on historical precedents.



Hard Law vs. Soft Law



Mine Ban Convention (1997)





Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008)

Bomblets \

CLUSTER BOMBS

Nearly 100 countries are signing a treaty to ban cluster bombs, while the leading producers of the bombs, including the US, Russia, China and Israel, remain outside the pact.



- **1.** Canister released from aircraft
- Comes in variety of shapes, sizes
 Typical weight
 1,000lb (454kg)

2. Spinning canister opens (contains about 200 bomblets)

3. Individual bomblets float down to target Length 8 inch (20cm)

- Parachute like device attached
- Breaks into small metal fragments upon detonation
- Many fail to go off immediately; civilians at risk when bomblets accidentally detonated





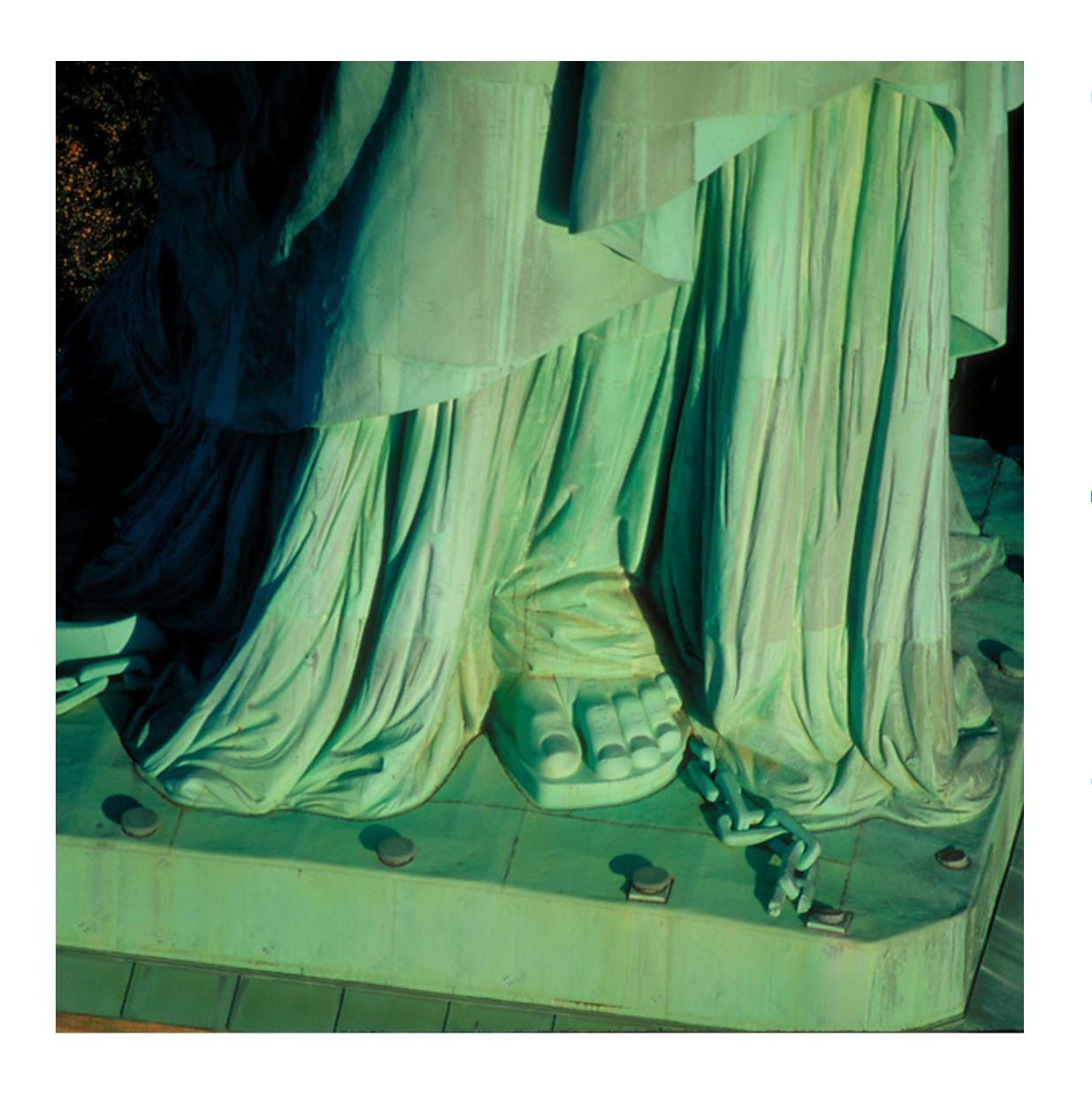
Forced Labour Convention - Twice



The Forced Labour Convention (1930) was updated twice (1957 & 2014) to provide heightened protections & remedies to suppress forced labour.



Modern Slavery Abolition



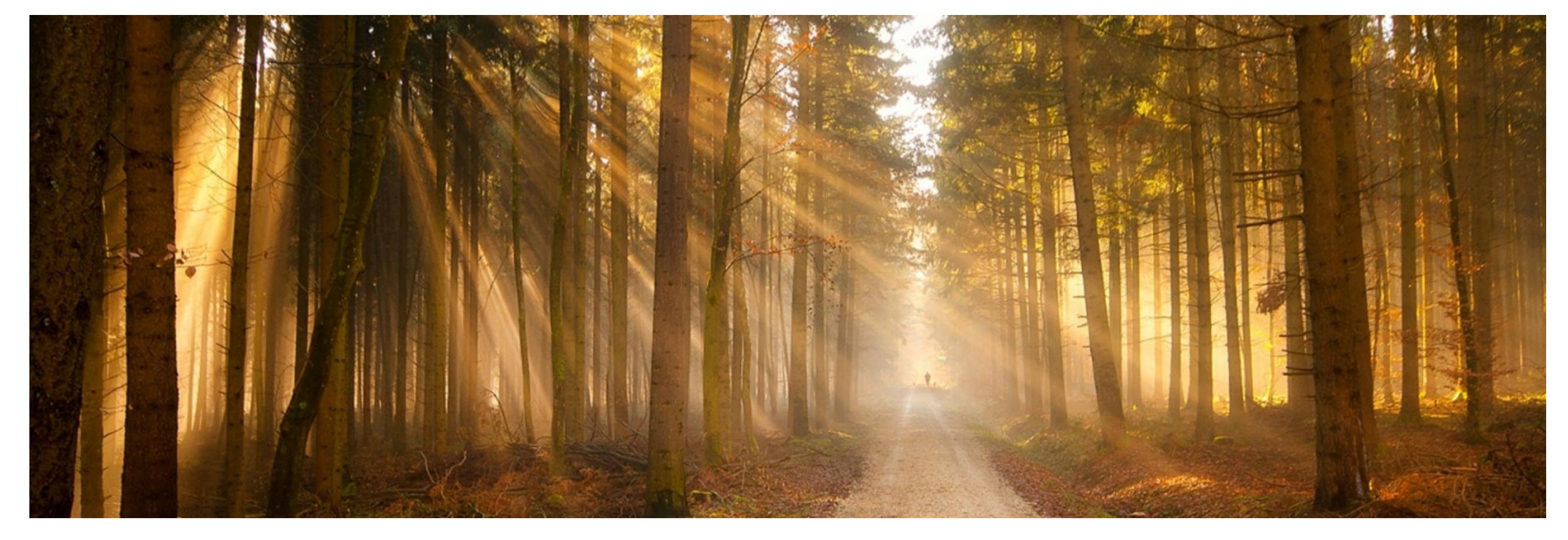
The 1926 Slavery Convention was modernized in 1956 to eliminate several exceptions to slavery & ban additional practices.



Crucial to remain open to exploring provisions that have not been agreed under 'soft law' & to options that may cause tensions with earlier treaties.



A Pathway to More Direct Challenges



break the international community free from the lockstep, consensus-based model of treaty amendment currently in place IDLARC International Drug Law Advocacy & Resource Center

Benefits of a Supplementary Treaty

Resource Reallocation

Shifting resources from enforcement to harm reduction

Challenges to Treaty System

Introducing mechanisms for treaty amendments

Historical Support

Grounding reforms in historical precedents

harm reduction and human rights 'soft law' resolutions

Elevate

Existing Soft

Laws

Elevate existing

System-wide Coherence

Aligning treaties with current health and human rights priorities



Practical Achievability

Ensures reforms are feasible with support from small group of UN Member States



Is a supplementary treaty possible?

YES! Pathway to broader reform & necessary to secure increased harm reduction funding.



