

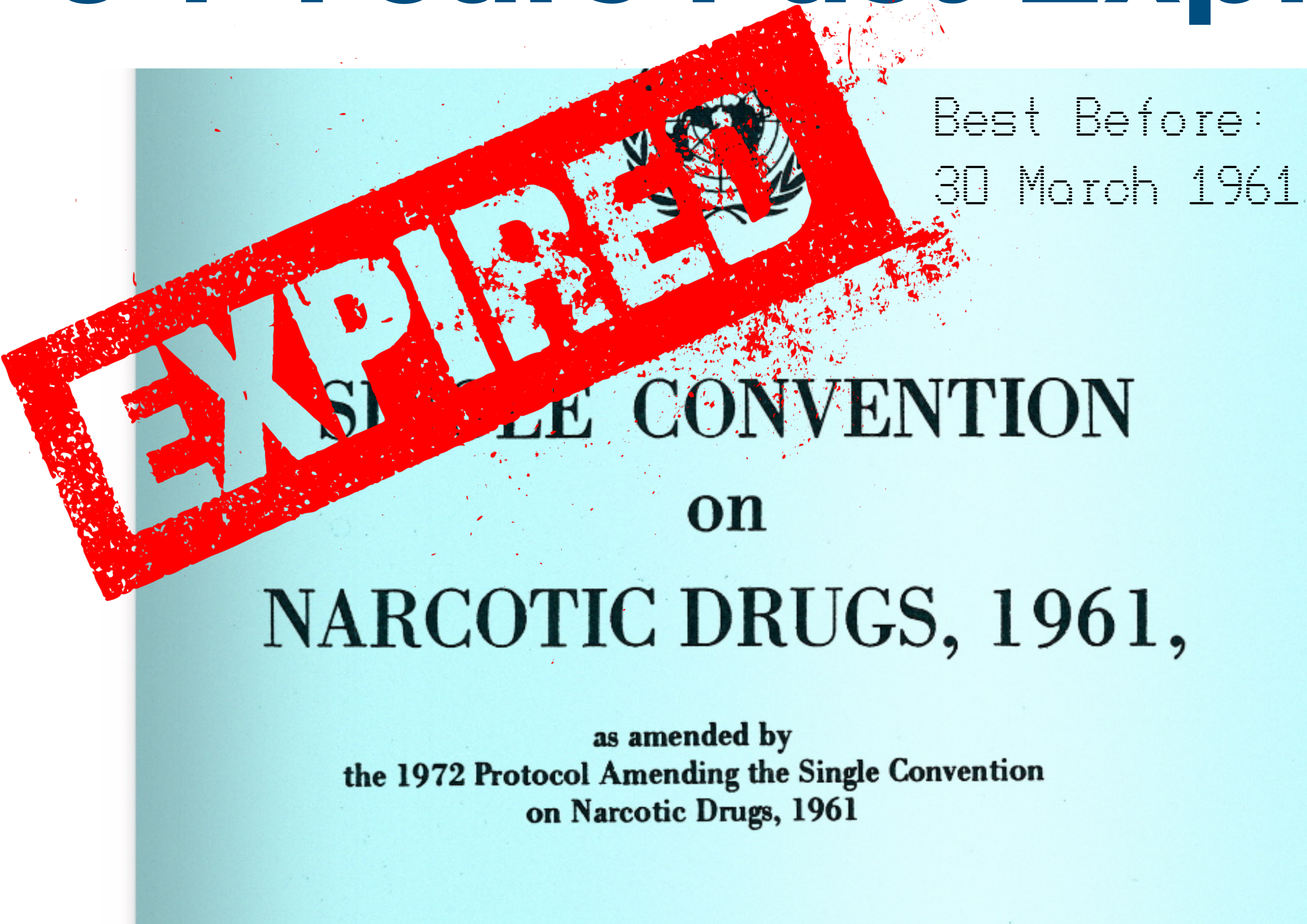


Codifying Harm Reduction into International Law

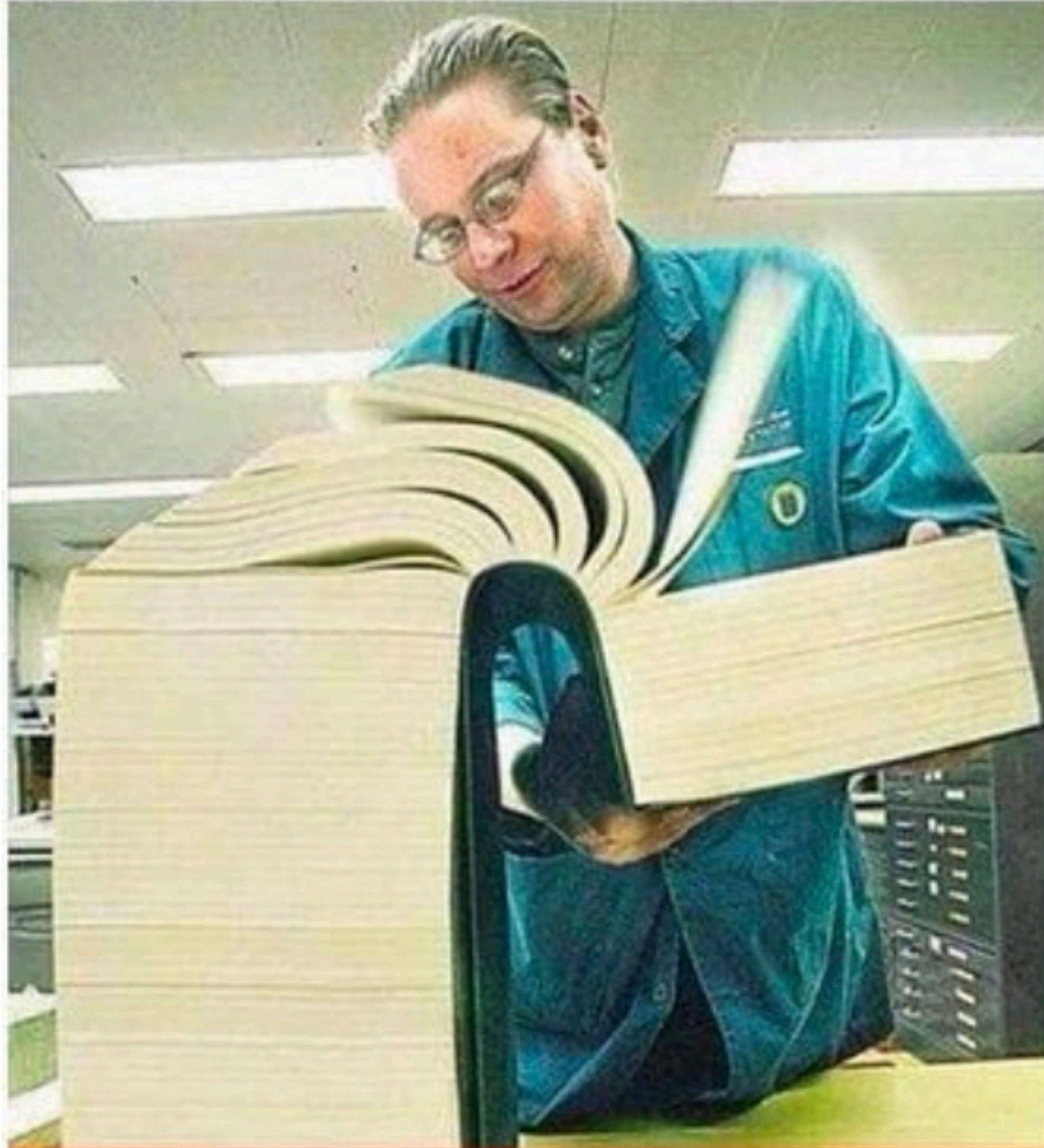
Benjamin W. Phillips, MIPH
& Heather J. Haase, LL.M

IDLARC) International Drug Law
Advocacy & Resource Center

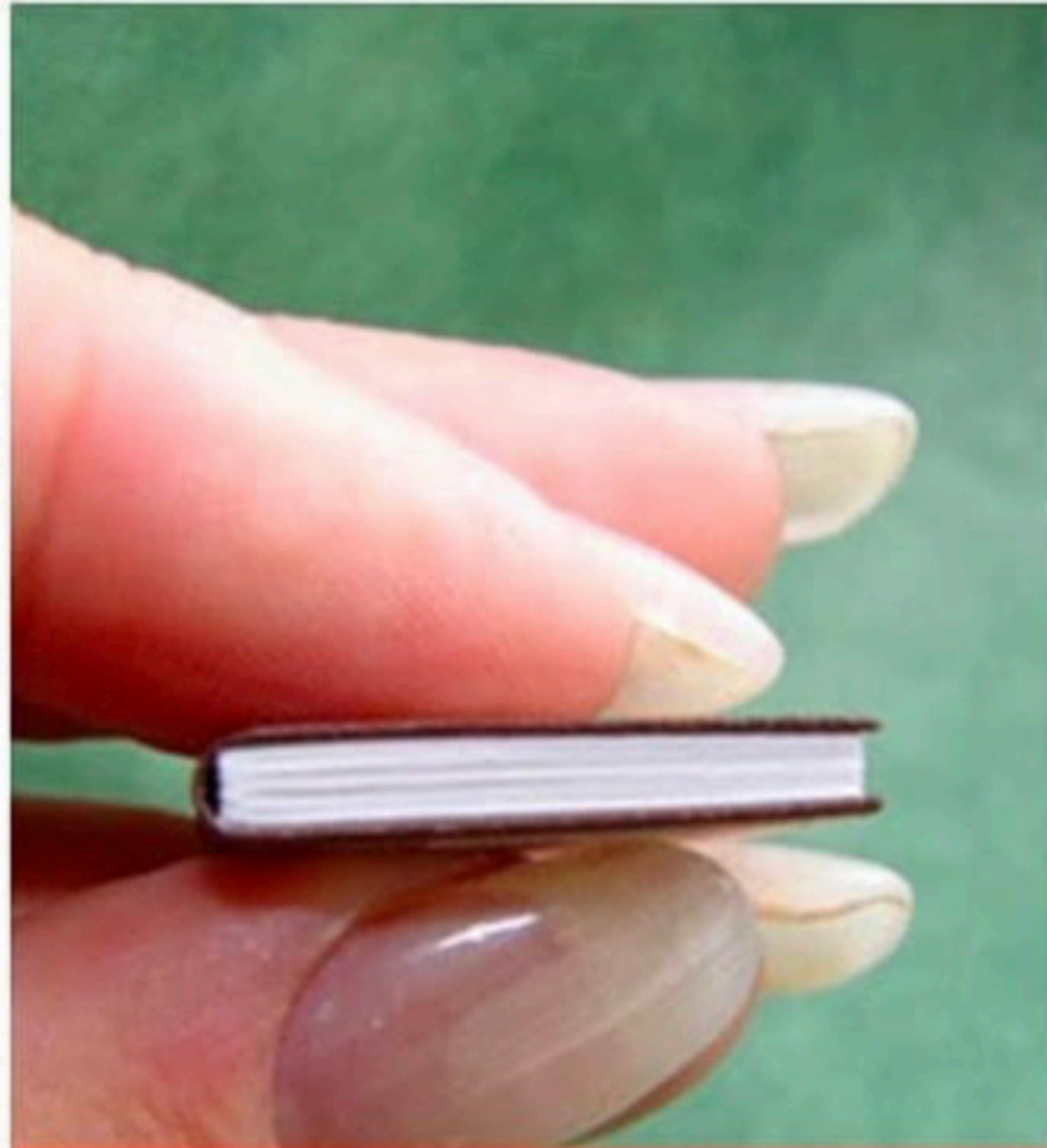
64 Years Past Expiry Date



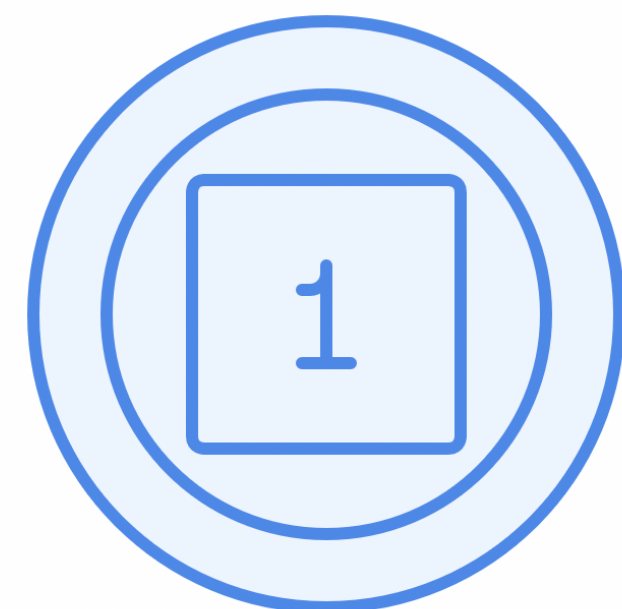
Currently the only **binding law is concerned with enforcement-** and **prohibition-**based “war on drugs” provisions



**THE PROBLEMS
CAUSED BY DRUG
CRIMINALISATION**



**THE PROBLEMS CAUSED
BY DRUGS THEMSELVES**



1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs

Consolidated all previous treaties to eliminate non-medical drug use



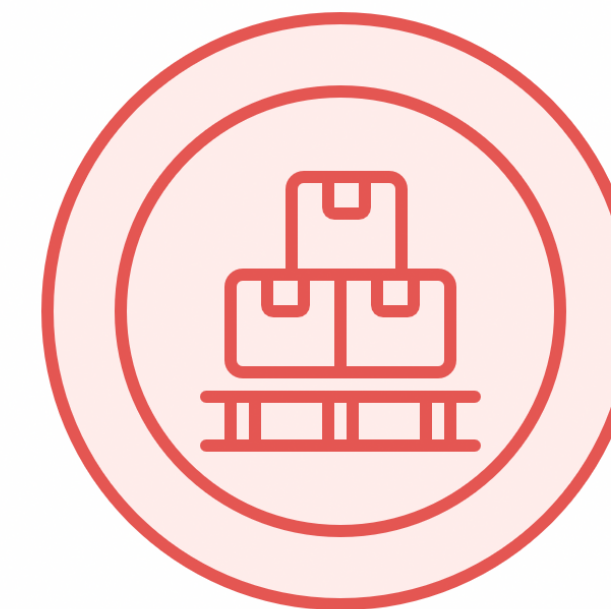
1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances

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

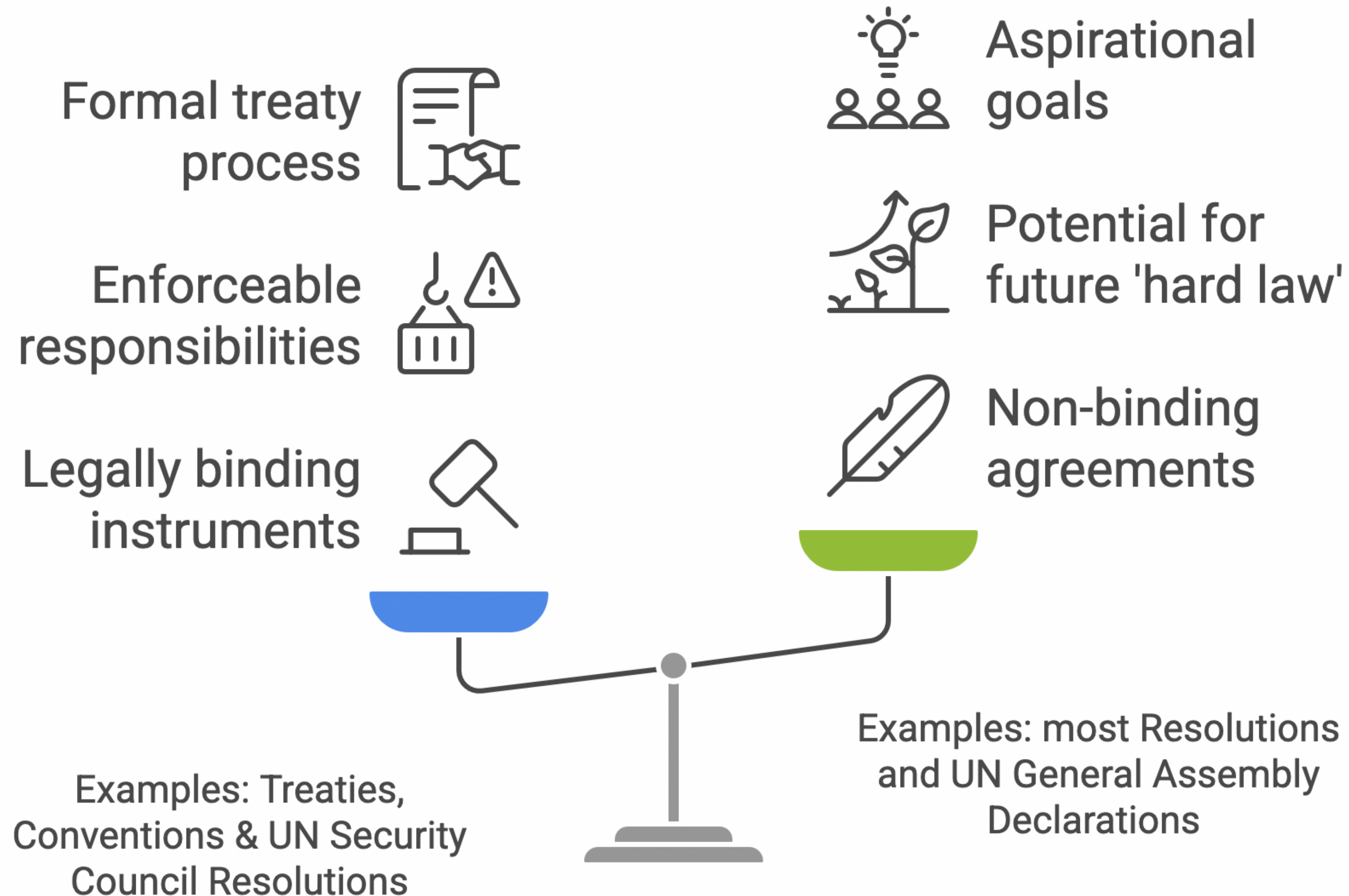
Why not amend the Conventions?

IDLARC

International Drug Law
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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)

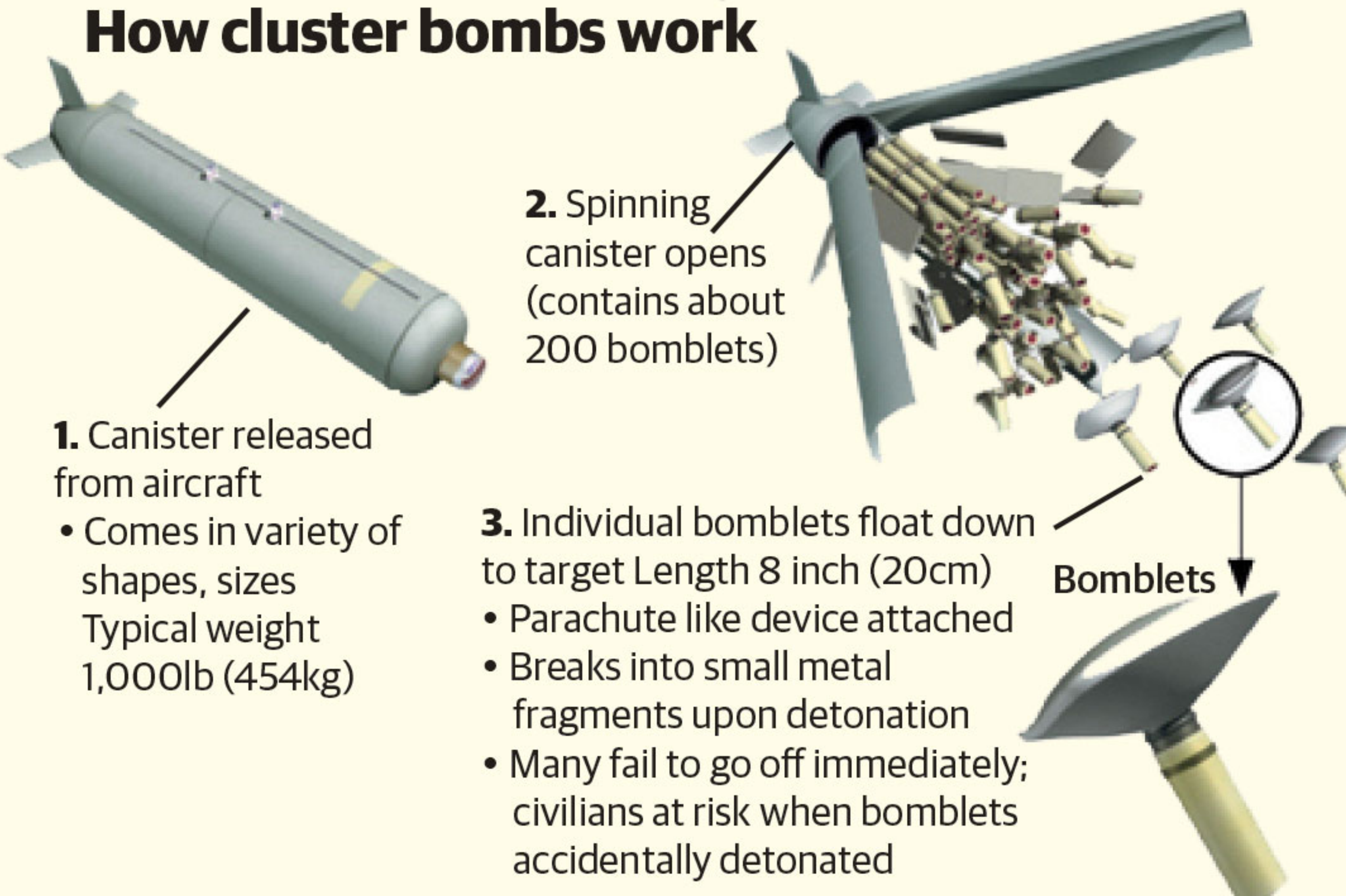


Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008)

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.

How cluster bombs work



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.

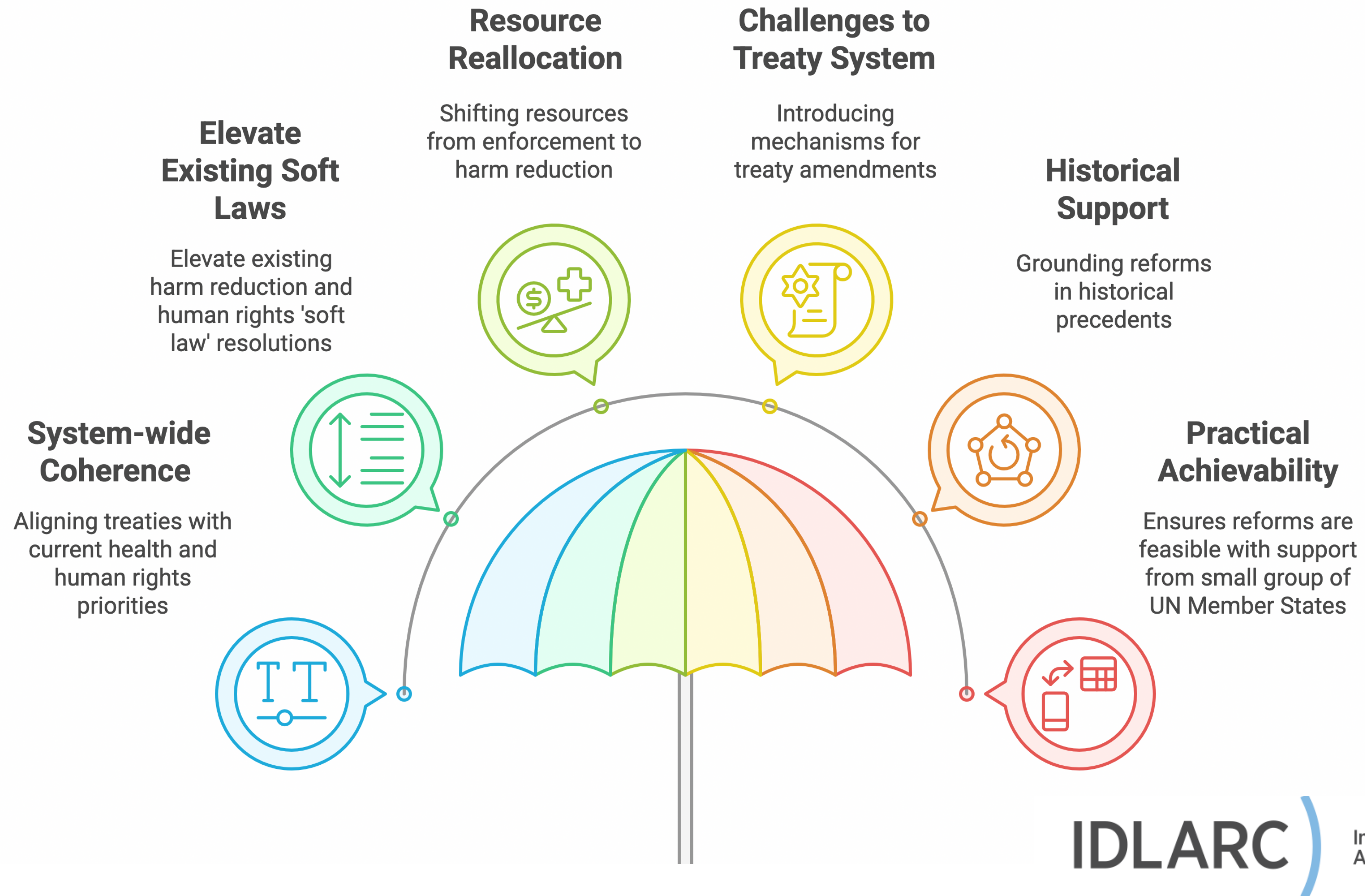
Crucial to **remain open to exploring** provisions that have **not been agreed** under 'soft law' & to options that may **cause tensions** with earlier treaties.

A Pathway to More Direct Challenges



break the international community **free from the lockstep, consensus-based model** of treaty amendment currently in place

Benefits of a Supplementary Treaty



Is a supplementary treaty possible?

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



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