My name is George Ochieng Odalo, a prevention practitioner in the line of substance use targeting young people; I also serve as the Founder and Executive Director at Slum child foundation, where we work with young people in the slums to promote prevention of of the same.

Since the Emergence of Covid-19 early 2020, its impact has been felt everywhere with a lot of people around the globe leading to increased consumption among the vulnerable groups with women and young people being the worse hit victims.

Furthermore the world has been crippling with gap of promoting substance use for scientific purposes which should not be an avenue to promote or give chance to promote recreational use. There are several cases we have around the world and more specifically in African and Kenya where I come from, Politicians are using this avenue to seek political mileage which is more of a personal gain, without factoring the poor people who barely fit for meals and not able to afford treatment.

As African civil society organizations we have tried to create a nexus between drugs and crime which should emulated with others around the globe in order to help address the all size fits all, this will help promote prevention which is less expensive than treatment. During African Conference on drugs and crime we came up with an outcome document that speaks out thoughts and aspirations that ideally address the continental challenges which other cut across the globe as integrate other international and regional instruments like UNGASS outcome document, the UNODC strategic vision for Africa, the Kyoto declaration among others, it is our plea as young people from the worse hit areas with drugs and crime that state parties and other likeminded Civil Societies organizations around the globe to support our work through the UN established avenues, we need each other to be able to achieve the goal of this year International Drug day.

Thank you.