Dear esteemed delegates, my name is Daisy Kwala, a health rights activist from the famous and well-known Bar Hostess Empowerment and Support Program in Kenya. I want to speak to you as a daughter of informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya. In these informal settlements, women like me navigate various vulnerabilities, including risk to infectious diseases, drug use, mental health issues, and issues of intimate partner violence. These together intertwine with the stigma and discrimination from the community. Healthcare services treat all these in silos, missing out the key pictures in our lives.

The success of Bar Hostess Empowerment and Support Program was first based in Nairobi and now also in the arid and semi-arid areas like in Mapsabit County. We use different service delivery models like the person-centered care model and the differentiated care model, co-designed with our peer education model, where we are able to reach clients with various services like hepatitis C testing, HIV testing, mental health screening and support, and harm reduction services. All these services are tailor-made to the specific needs of the client.

The results are striking, with improved access to HIV prevention services. We have also seen a lot of improvement in terms of antiretroviral treatment access and retention into care. We've also seen reduction in terms of fewer hepatitis C and HIV acquisition among our clients, and a reduction of cases of overdose. All these together are powered by compassion, and evidence from the implementation sites.

So when we are asked: “what type of service do we need?” We need a person-centered care model of service delivery, where we are included, where we have freedom in terms of health choices, freedom from stigma, friendlier policies, and where we are included. I want to share these priority areas and ask the Commission to adapt and fund policies that:

- Scale peer-led models at the community level to help accessing HIV prevention and care services.
- Measure success by engaging the recipients of care, and them directly, to ensure quality of healthcare
- Decriminalize sex work, drug use, drug possession for personal use, so us, women, are in full power regarding our health care access.

So, when we craft services around women's realities, we don't just save lives. We uphold human rights, and my life experience is a proof of this. When we put people at the center, health gaps close, policies shifts, and women like me, thrive. We deserve nothing less than the help, the dignity, and the freedom to really determine our own lives.