# Position Paper

Committee: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Topic: Addressing Global Youth Substance Abuse

Country: Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Delegate: Nepal

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal recognizes youth substance abuse as a critical and growing global issue that undermines the well-being, development, and future potential of younger generations. In Nepal, rising trends of drug abuse among adolescents—especially in urban areas like Kathmandu—have raised alarms. Easy access to narcotics, peer pressure, lack of awareness, and socio-economic challenges contribute to this crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic further intensified mental health issues and increased the vulnerability of youth to drug experimentation.

Nepal’s government, in collaboration with NGOs and international partners, has implemented several policies and programs aimed at prevention and rehabilitation. The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs Control (2069 BS/2012 AD) emphasizes demand and supply reduction through education, community engagement, and stricter law enforcement. Rehabilitation centers across Nepal provide treatment and counseling, although challenges remain in coverage, funding, and social stigma.

As a member of the United Nations and a party to international treaties like the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Nepal supports multilateral cooperation in addressing youth substance abuse. We strongly believe in a balanced approach: combining preventive education, community-based intervention, and rehabilitation over punishment.

Nepal urges the international community to:
1. Strengthen cross-border cooperation to curb drug trafficking, especially in South Asia.
2. Provide technical and financial support for capacity-building in developing countries.
3. Promote school- and community-based education campaigns about the risks of drug use.
4. Increase access to mental health services and youth counseling.
5. Share best practices and research on addiction prevention and recovery models.

Nepal is committed to working collaboratively to create a safer, healthier future for youth worldwide. We emphasize a compassionate, evidence-based, and inclusive approach to tackling substance abuse.