

Draft talking points for Chair of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific for the 8th session of the Committee on Statistics

Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, gentlemen and ladies

We, in Asia and the Pacific, have a shared vision that, by 2024, all people in the region will benefit from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems, facilitating the realization of their rights and supporting good governance, health and development.

As the chair of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, I am pleased to see the improvements made during the first years of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade. The Regional Steering Group plays a pivotal role in the implementation of the CRVS Decade and it was great to see the commitment to 'Get Every One in the Picture' during the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS held in November last year.

The main outcome of the Ministerial Conference was the Ministerial Declaration *building a more resilient future with inclusive civil registration and vital statistics*. The declaration reinforces the continued commitment of our region to achieving universal civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events. The Ministerial Declaration includes key areas of action that will help us progress towards our shared regional vision as we enter the second half of the Decade. The Regional Steering Group has discussed how to take these recommendations forward and will continue to support the implementation throughout the remainder of the CRVS decade.

I know many of you in this committee have spearheaded the increased use of administrative data in your countries and there are encouraging examples of how the data produced from CRVS systems, especially with regards to mortality, was used as a critical tool in the COVID-19 response.

Indeed we saw this impressive progress reflected in the midterm report of the CRVS decade, which the Regional Steering Group contributed to last year. But despite this progress too many people in the region are still being left behind and we have much more work ahead to achieve the shared vision of universal registration.

Over the next couple of years, the Regional Steering Group will lead the preparation of the final review of the CRVS Decade. I hope we will be able to report on accelerated improvements of systems across the

region, bringing us closer to universal registration, legal documentation for all and improved use of the data from civil registration records to produce more timely and higher quality vital statistics.

Distinguished delegates, while we still have much to do, we are on the right path. I invite you all to support initiatives to ensure we get every one, everywhere into the picture.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and our development partners for your commitment to civil registration and vital statistics. Your support and encouragement are invaluable to our efforts.

Finally, I would like to ask the secretariat to please show a video with some of the highlights from the Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEDdJQDOELY&t=67s>

Thank you.