

**Speaker statement**

**Speaker:** Dr Olga Joos

**Delegation:** United States

**Agenda item 3b:** Monitoring progress in response to the Get Every One in the Picture initiative on civil registration and vital statistics

**Date:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022

**Statement**

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: Greetings from Washington, DC, United States. It's a pleasure to speak to all of you during the Eighth Session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics.

To ensure we leave no one behind, it is critical to have an effective and resilient statistical system, which includes a well-functioning civil registration system- the primary source for vital statistics. In 2014, the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade was launched at the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. Since then, countries in the region have made progress in achieving goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework, but accelerated progress is needed to get everyone in the picture.

The United States supports the Regional Steering Group's consideration of extending the Decade to align with the 2030 Agenda to further support efforts in achieving goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework. 15 of the SDG goals and 24 of the SDG targets require birth and death data in their numerators and total population, live births, and total deaths in their denominators. An extension of the Decade will allow for continued progress in strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems which will improve data quality to measure achievements of the 2030 Agenda.

Moreover, the United States supports the Regional Steering Groups consideration of increasing the focus on marriage registration, one of the ten vital events for which data should be collected for vital statistics purposes as per the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System. Birth and marriage registration are closely linked, as improvements in birth registration facilitate age verification for marriage. Incorporating marriage registration improvements in broader civil registration and vital statistics strengthening efforts will initiate a transformation from siloed efforts to a life course perspective, which will allow synergies in improvements and accelerate achievements.

The United States is committed to its role on the Regional Steering Group to support countries in the region to get everyone in the picture.

Thank you.