

## **BHUTAN**

### **Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics 16-19 November 2021**

#### **Ministerial Segment (19 November 2021)**

**Agenda item 10:** Towards a shared vision of universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems that facilitate the realization of rights and support good governance, health and development (11:00-12:00, GMT+7)

#### **Thank you Chair**

We note with appreciation and thank the secretariat for the comprehensive documents on the roles played by development partners in strengthening Civil registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS) and importance of integrating verbal autopsy into CRVS.

Noting that many deaths in Asia and the Pacific are not taking place in a health facility or with the attention of a medical practitioner, we fully acknowledge the importance of integrating verbal autopsy into CRVS. We believe that integrating verbal autopsy in CRVS is critical in providing information on all deaths occurring outside of health facilities.

In Bhutan, almost two-third of the deaths are reported to be taking place outside of the health facilities and verbal autopsy is yet to be introduced.

Nevertheless, Bhutan is currently implementing its first ever Multi-sectoral National Strategic Action Plan on strengthening national CRVS system and introduction of verbal autopsy is identified as one of the key strategic areas.

We dully acknowledge the active involvement of development partners in supporting countries in Asia and the Pacific for improvements of their CRVS systems.

While we take note of the remarkable improvements made by many countries in our region as reflected in the midway progress report of Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade, we remain fully positive that the development partners would continue to render their strong support and commitment for the second half of the CRVS decade as well, towards realizing the goal of building universal and responsive CRVS systems in the region.

**Thank you and Tashi Delek**