

**UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
(UNESCAP)**

**Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital  
Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific, November 16 – 19, 2021**

**Statement by the United States**

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November 19, 2021, 11:00-12:00PM (Bangkok)

Your excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Nancy Izzo Jackson. I head the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, which leads U.S. efforts to provide protection, ease suffering, and resolve the plight of persecuted and forcibly displaced people around the world. I am honored to join you today.

The United States appreciates the opportunity to work with ESCAP on multilateral solutions to common challenges. As Secretary Blinken has emphasized, and I quote, "human rights and dignity must stay at the core of the international order." That is, in essence, what we are discussing: the responsibility of governments to treat individuals with dignity and respect.

We have long championed efforts to ensure that all individuals benefit from civil registration and vital statistics systems.

Building such systems and tearing down barriers to civil registration are essential to protecting the most vulnerable.

Women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, minority groups, stateless persons, and persons on the move—including refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and vulnerable migrants—

often find themselves caught in a vicious cycle of exclusion from civil registration.

We cannot ignore their plight.

Eradicating statelessness. Ensuring children have access to education. Empowering women. These are all part of the shared vision behind which I hope we can all continue to stand.

The progress made during the first half of the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade is commendable.

That progress took a lot of hard work. It will take even more work over the second half of the decade.

That is why the United States is committed to supporting your efforts as we make strides towards achieving goals in the Regional Action Framework.

Our humanitarian assistance, for example, supports your commitments to reduce statelessness.

As the largest single donor to UNHCR, we strongly support the #iBelong Campaign. In the Philippines, for example, U.S. support enabled UNHCR's work with UNICEF and local groups to launch a birth registration drive among nomadic seafarers at risk of statelessness.

We praise Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan on efforts to ensure universal birth registration, and commend the Kyrgyz Republic on the eradication of all known statelessness cases.

We applaud Thailand's leadership of the #iBelong Campaign's Group of Friends and appreciate its work to promote efforts globally and at home to protect stateless persons.

We urge Myanmar to ensure civil registration and access to citizenship for Rohingya.

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Beyond humanitarian aid, we provide technical support through resource development, capacity building, and collaboration on sustainable systems improvements.

We look forward to continuing this work together, to address common challenges, and to find long-lasting solutions that protect the human rights and dignity of all people.

Thank you.

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