



Statement by

H.E Mao Chandara, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior

**At the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in
Asia and the Pacific**

Bangkok, Thailand, 16-19 November 2021



- H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP!
- H.E. Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen!

Today, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I wish to express my support and congratulations to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for organizing this important 2nd Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is firmly committed to achieving the Millennium Goals and the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific 2015-2024 in a manner that is more sustainable, equitable, inclusive, and people centric.

Hence, the Royal Government of Cambodia, in June 2016, approved a 10-year National Strategic Plan on Identification (2017-2026). This National Strategic Plan focuses on priority actions directed towards improved service delivery and modernization of public administration which, in turn, will enable the management of personal identity data, vital events data and generate reliable population data and vital statistics. The National Steering Committee for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identification has been established to monitor, enhance, and expedite the efficient implementation of the National Strategic Plan.

Through the National Strategic Plan, Cambodia is strengthening its civil registration system by assessing and redesigning the registration processes, increasing accessibility, reducing complexity, and eliminating fees. Remarkable progress has been made in the national birth registration rate particularly, which increased from 73% in 2014 to 87% in 2020.

Cambodia is collaborating with the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative through Vital Strategies and has initiated and invested in a substantial number of activities and steps towards improving civil registration and vital statistics. Introducing quality assurance for birth and death registration, including cause of death, has strengthened data collection for policymaking, planning, and programming for health sector priorities such as non-communicable disease and cancer. Also, Cambodia has carefully considered various options, and committed to the comprehensive review and revision of its legal and regulatory framework on civil registration, vital statistics, and national identification.

The revised legal and regulatory framework will help Cambodia to move towards better implementation of international norms and best practices by connecting the identification management system to the civil registration system – a seamless system where personal identity is created at the time of live birth registration and remains in use until death. These two effective systems will ensure that Cambodia benefits from population information, which will be used to prepare various strategic plans, at national and sub-national levels, in response to the actual needs of the people, in particular those who are most in need.

During the development process of the new civil registration, vital statistics and identification legal and regulatory framework, Cambodia has made a commitment to permanent and universal registration, which will permit the live birth and death registration system to function optimally in the territory of Cambodia and ensure that legal identity is created for all.

Lastly, I wish to confirm that the Royal Government of Cambodia supports the declaration of the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Framework to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Thank you!