Hon’ble Chairperson, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank UNESCAP for successfully organizing this second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. This empowers member states to expand coverage of CRVS that acts as an accelerator for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ensuring no one is left behind.

Hon’ble Chair,

Today, we are together to celebrate the achievements of the first half of the Asia and Pacific CRVS decade, and to cope the remaining challenges. At this moment, I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the achievements that Nepal has made so far in strengthening the CRVS System. We have recognized the CRVS program as one of the transformative program of the nation. This system is expected to mainstream the implementation of the fundamental rights to health, education, employment, social protection and various government services that are enshrined particularly to children, youth, women, elderly citizen and socially disadvantaged people.

With enough legal arrangements, we have provisioned for Local Registrar’s offices at each unit of the local government nation-wide and Central Registrar at Department of National Identity and Civil Registration. The Department has developed and operated an online Vital Events Registration and Social Protection Management Information System. We are planning to integrate various government services such as national identity card, passports, social protection schemes, employment opportunities, health insurance and many more with this system. The government has also endorsed CRVS strategy, 2019 in-line with the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and Pacific.

In the mean time, we are facing challenges such as critical geographical location hindering the easy access to civil registration, skilling up human resources to adapt new technologies, and ensuring adequate financial resources to strengthen CRVS system. Despite that we are committed to achieve the set goals and the principles enshrined in the Ministerial Declaration. We will continue enabling our system of CRVS to ensure the universal vital event registration. Furthermore, joint collaboration in this regard will expedite the momentum in achieving our shared goals. I thank you all.

I thank you all.