

ESCAP 2nd Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Bangkok and online, 16-19 November 2021

Talking Points for UNHCR RBAP

Session 11 (Ministerial Segment): The importance of civil registration and vital statistics and legal identity for all to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda: 19 November 2021, 14:00 – 15:00 (BKK time)

Mr. Indrika Ratwatte, Bureau Director

- Thank you, chair, for giving me the floor. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:
- In 2014, ESCAP Members and Associate Members have embraced the **shared vision of universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems**, which they are about to re-confirm today. This vision is at the **heart of UNHCR's international protection mandate**: Access to civil registration and legal identity documentation are essential for refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, internally displaced persons, stateless individuals, and persons of undetermined nationality.
- UNHCR stands ready to **continue its support** to governments in all civil registration and legal identity issues that affect these population groups and individuals.
- In order to do so, we will maintain our engagement with **UN Country Teams and UN Legal Identity Working Groups** on the national level, and we will be honored to share our humanitarian expertise in this context.
- Our co-operation with the **ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children** is another important partnership in this regard. We look forward to continuing the work with national authorities to translate the results of this co-

operation into national activities, and thus to promote the legal identity of women and children on the ground.

- Regarding the assessment of inequalities affecting civil registration, I would like to recall our joint work with the **Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime**. The recent activities relating to the “Bali Process Civil Registration Assessment Toolkit” have helped to identify not only the legal and practical challenges for universal civil registration, but also some steps towards their resolution.
- Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention.