

## **Intervention for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific**

Agenda Item 7: Intersection between civil registration and identity management systems in Asia and the Pacific (15:00-16:30, GMT+8)

*“The Conference may wish to take note of the documents and provide the secretariat and development partners with further guidance and advice on how to implement the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda in Asia and the Pacific. The Conference may also wish to share experiences and discuss efforts for continued improvement during the second half of the Decade.”*

The Philippines reaffirms its commitment to the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Decade (2015-2024) and the region’s continuing endeavor to realize the community’s commitment for an inclusive CRVS and identity management system. We also reaffirm our commitment to the 2014 Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific as we strive to “Get Every One in the Picture”, extending to the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda and its goal to manifest universal legal identity for all—including birth registration.

The Philippines, through its different agencies and partners, firmly and further supports the development of an inclusive, interoperable, and holistic identity management and CRVS systems. In realizing the functions and critical roles of the Declaration, Framework, and the two Agendas—UN Legal Identity Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the PSA, with its different partners in government and in the private sector, ardently supports the strengthening of inclusive legal identity systems in Asia and the Pacific. While the Philippines is undergoing crucial development in the foundation of its national identity management system, it aims to reconcile CRVS and national identification systems, furthering the integration of both systems to fulfill the government’s commitment of service to the public with a decentralized or centralized authority on both

systems essential to strengthening the legal identity system of the country.

In recognition of the importance of fulfilling the goals stated in the Ministerial Declaration and strengthening legal identities through enhancing the existing civil registration system, the Philippines extends its utmost support in improving policy, implementation, and the quality of life of CRVS products and services in Asia and the Pacific. Member states, and their respective governments, all aim for both an inclusive civil registration and vital statistics and identity management systems. While all of these are goals to further sustain existing systems, it is also important to recognize the needs of hard-to-reach and marginalized populations, whether geographic limitations, politico- and socio-economic, and historic-cultural barriers. With this, the Philippines recognizes the possible alleviation of the conditions of states and their respective peoples, and the consequent achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Philippines fully supports the principles on which the implementation of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda stands and calls for a more active and resolute regional collaboration.

Finally, the Philippines also recognizes that as the region fulfills its commitment to each member state, governments may encounter challenges, issues, and systemic barriers, internationally, regionally, and nationally, in implementing courses of action that will achieve our set goals. Nevertheless, despite the lasting impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Asia and the Pacific community of nations and development partners will leave no one behind and will take all opportunities for accelerated action to put everybody back on track in fulfilling the Agendas, the SDGs, the Ministerial Declaration, and the Regional Action Framework, and ultimately, the second half of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade.