Agenda item #7
The relationship between civil registration, identity management and vital statistics, and their role in ensuring legal identity in Asia and the Pacific

Distinguished Excellency’s and Delegates,
United Nations & Development Partners,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tropical greetings from the REPUBLIC OF VANUATU!

Mr Chairman,

A legal identity is established through continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal electronic registration of vital events. The birth certificate or Identity Card, as the trusted proof of legal identity, are considered to be the outputs of a functioning Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system. These important documents will provide citizens with the means to access government services as well as private services. The Government of Vanuatu considers civil registration as the fundamental source registration related to identity management.

The registration of a birth is the first step in the process of formal recognition of an individual as a citizen of Vanuatu. Once a person has been registered, they can proof or authenticate their identity when needed to access associated benefits and services. Government institutions in Vanuatu use their name and National Identification Number to provide services. In future persons may use their National Identity Card and fingerprint to prove their identity at schools, hospitals, immigration, elections (voting), bank, travel agents, and many other socio-economic public-private institutions and services.

Understanding the need to coordinate the required improvement of the CRVS system, the Government of Vanuatu in 2017-19 approved the National CRVS
Policy and the National ID Policy. The policy document is an integrated strategy for the improvement and strengthening of CRVS and identity management.

However, achieving the CRVS goals such as a ‘legal identity for all’, also means creating a ‘demand-for service’. To create such a demand the Government of Vanuatu will develop a policy and strategy based on its cultural and geographical context. The Regional Action Framework for Asia and the Pacific will support the Government of Vanuatu to focus their efforts to realize the three CRVS goals, as well as monitoring progress towards achieving the results.

Mr Chairman,

The Government of Vanuatu is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 16, Target 16.9: "By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration." We are confident that this target, in Vanuatu, can be achieved most likely before 2030. The Governments strategic planning will be focused on achieving that result.

We thank you for your listening and may God bless you all!

**Mr KAP Calo Andy**  
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REPUBLIC OF VANUATU