

Draft talking points for Chair of the Second Ministerial Conference for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific for the 78th session of the Commission

Distinguished delegates, Excellencies,

We, in Asia and the Pacific, have a shared vision that, by 2024, all people in the region will benefit from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems, facilitating the realization of their rights and supporting good governance, health and development.

In 2014, governments attended the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and proclaimed the years 2015 to 2024 as the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade.

Despite the progress made during the first part of the Decade, many people in the region are still being left behind and we have work ahead to achieve the shared vision of universal registration. This was highlighted in the midterm report of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics decade released by ESCAP in 2021.

Also, last year we met to celebrate the midpoint of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade with the convening of the Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

Deliberations during the conference highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic has placed a renewed importance on the need for timely and reliable data on deaths and their causes and the critical role of civil registration and vital statistics systems in ensuring inclusive access to health care and social protection services in times of crisis.

Mongolia was elected Vice Chair of the Ministerial Segment of the Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. I would like to thank my fellow colleagues for bestowing this honor. I wish to acknowledge the support given to the Chair and I by all countries, development partners and the secretariat.

The main outcome of the Ministerial Conference was the Ministerial Declaration *building a more resilient future with inclusive civil registration and vital statistics*. The declaration re-enforces the continued

commitments of our region to achieving universal civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events. The Ministerial Declaration includes key areas of action that will help us progress towards our shared regional vision as we enter the second half of the Decade. In this regard the Commission is expected to adopt a resolution to endorse this outcome document.

Distinguished delegates, while we still have much to do, we are on the right path. I invite you all to support initiatives to ensure we get every one, everywhere into the picture.

I take the opportunity to thank you and our development partners for your commitment to civil registration and vital statistics. Your support and encouragement are invaluable to our efforts.

Thank you.