



Economic and Social Council

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and
Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok and online, 16–19 November 2021

Agenda item 14

Adoption of the report of the Conference

Draft report

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

A. Matters calling for action by the Commission

1. The Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific recommends that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at its seventy-eighth session, endorse the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

2. The Ministerial Conference adopts the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

II. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the Conference

3. The Ministerial Conference was held in Bangkok and online from 16 to 19 November 2021. It comprised two segments: the senior officials segment (16–18 November 2021) and the ministerial segment (19 November 2021).

4. The Ministerial Conference was organized by the following partners: ESCAP; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); World Health Organization (WHO); World Bank Group; CDC Foundation; Pacific Community; Plan International; Vital Strategies; and World Vision International.

5. The senior officials segment was opened by the Executive Secretary. Statements were also made by Ms. Kamni Naidu, Administrator-General, Ministry of Justice, Fiji, and Chair of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific; the Director of the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific; and the Director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific.

6. The ministerial segment was opened by the Deputy Secretary-General. Statements were also made by the Executive Secretary; Police Lieutenant General Nadhapit Snidvongs, Vice-Minister for Interior, Thailand; the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; and the Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR.

B. Attendance

7. The Ministerial Conference was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission: Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Cook Islands; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; Georgia; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

8. Representatives of the following Permanent Observers to ESCAP attended: Finland; Mexico; Nigeria; and Switzerland.

9. Representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean attended.

10. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds attended: International Organization for Migration; UNDP; UNFPA; UNHCR; UNICEF; UN-Women; and WHO.

11. Representatives of the Pacific Community attended.

12. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities attended: Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; CDC Foundation; Child Rights Coalition Asia; Plan International; Vital Strategies; and World Vision International.

13. In accordance with rule 12 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the senior officials segment examined the credentials of all the representatives and found them to be in order.

C. Election of officers

14. The Ministerial Conference elected the following officers for the senior officials segment:

Chair: Mr. Jeff Montgomery (New Zealand)
 Vice-Chairs: Mr. Syed Rashedul Hossen (Bangladesh)
 Mr. Sukmo Yuwono (Indonesia)
 Ms. Suzilah Mohd Sidek (Malaysia)
 Mr. Jyoung Jeon (Republic of Korea)
 Mr. Oleg Shamanov (Russian Federation)

15. The Ministerial Conference elected the following officers for the ministerial segment:

Chair: Dr. Faisal Sultan (Pakistan)
 Vice-Chair: Mr. Tumur Amarsanaa (Mongolia)

D. Agenda

16. The Ministerial Conference adopted the following agenda:

Senior officials segment (16–18 November 2021)

1. Opening of the Conference:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the progress and existing challenges in accelerating the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific.
3. The potential of the health sector to catalyse accelerated improvement in civil registration and vital statistics systems and the role of civil registration and vital statistics in the response to and recovery from the coronavirus disease pandemic.
4. Civil registration and vital statistics as an accelerator for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensuring no one is left behind.
5. Vital statistics production, dissemination and usage: harnessing civil registration data for decision-making.
6. Implementing gender-sensitive civil registration and vital statistics systems through a life cycle approach.
7. The relationship between civil registration, identity management and vital statistics, and their role in ensuring legal identity in Asia and the Pacific.
8. Other matters.

Ministerial segment (19 November 2021)

9. Opening of the ministerial segment:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
10. Towards a shared vision of universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems that facilitate the realization of rights and support good governance, health and development.
11. The importance of civil registration and vital statistics and legal identity for all to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda.
12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of the ministerial declaration.
14. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

E. Other events

17. The following side events and special sessions were held in conjunction with the Ministerial Conference:

(a) 25 October 2021, side event: “Digital innovation: civil registration and the COVID-19 vaccine record”, organized by UNDP and the Government of Japan;

(b) 8 November 2021, side event: “Establishment of civil registration and vital statistics sister districts in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries”, organized by the UNICEF Pakistan Country Office;

(c) 8 November 2021, side event: “Birth registration of refugees in ESCAP member States”, organized by the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific;

(d) 9 November 2021, side event: “Deaths in Asia and the Pacific: how many remain uncounted?”, organized by ESCAP;

(e) 9 November 2021, side event: “#CountingEveryone through leadership and innovation”, organized by Vital Strategies and Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative;

(f) 10 November 2021, side event: “Business process improvement: an innovative approach to civil registration and vital statistics system strengthening”, organized by Vital Strategies, ESCAP and the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office;

(g) 11 November 2021, side event: “Review and revision of civil registration, vital statistics and identity management legal frameworks: an essential component of civil registration and vital statistics system strengthening”, organized by Vital Strategies, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, CDC Foundation and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

(h) 11 November 2021, side event: “Unique identifiers: how can we minimize the risk and maximize benefits?”, organized by UNICEF;

- (i) 12 November 2021, side event: “Introducing an e-learning course to guide the analysis and use of vital statistics”, organized by Vital Strategies and Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative;
- (j) 12 November 2021, side event: “Count us in the picture: voices of children and youth on civil registration and vital statistics”, organized by World Vision International, Child Rights Coalition Asia and ESCAP;
- (k) 15 November 2021, side event: “Register-based censuses”, organized by Statistics Norway;
- (l) 16 November 2021, side event: “Deep dive on progress made during the first half of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024)”, organized by ESCAP;
- (m) 17 November 2021, warm-up session: “Health sector and civil registration and vital statistics”, organized by Vital Strategies and WHO;
- (n) 17 November 2021, warm-up session: “Civil registration and vital statistics as an accelerator for the Sustainable Development Goals”, organized by ESCAP, UNHCR, World Vision International and Child Rights Coalition Asia;
- (o) 18 November 2021, warm-up session: “Connecting vital events registration and gender equality”, organized by UN-Women, UNFPA and ESCAP;
- (p) 18 November 2021, warm-up session: “Relationship between civil registration and legal identity in Asia and the Pacific”, organized by UNICEF, World Bank, UNHCR and UNDP;
- (q) 19 November 2021, “Pandemics, people and preparedness: ministerial round table on civil registration and vital statistics, COVID-19 and health”, organized by ESCAP;
- (r) 19 November 2021, “Ministerial round table: building resilient civil registration and vital statistics systems – incorporating lessons from COVID-19 in the second half of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024)”, organized by ESCAP.

III. Chair’s summary

18. The deliberations during the Ministerial Conference will be summarized in the Chair’s summary, which will be available within a week following the conclusion of the Conference and included as annex II to the present report.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/1	Summary of Getting Every One in the Picture: A Snapshot of Progress Midway through the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade	2 and 10
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/2	Support from development partners in the first half of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024)	2 and 10
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/3	The potential of the health sector to catalyse accelerated improvement in civil registration and vital statistics	3 and 10
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/4	Civil registration and vital statistics as an accelerator for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensuring that no one is left behind	4 and 11
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/5	Vital statistics production, dissemination and usage: harnessing civil registration data for decision-making	5 and 10
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/6	Implementing gender-sensitive civil registration and vital statistics systems through a life cycle approach	6 and 11
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/7	Intersection between civil registration and identity management systems in Asia and the Pacific	7 and 11
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/L.1	Provisional agenda	1 (c) and 9 (c)
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c) and 9 (c)
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/L.3	Draft report	14
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/L.4	Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	13

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>Information series</i>		
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/INF/1	Development partners involved in civil registration and vital statistics improvement in Asia and the Pacific: profiles and support activities	2 and 10
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/INF/2	Verbal autopsy and the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: operational procedures, practices and innovations	3 and 10
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/INF/3	Economic costs and benefits of civil registration and vital statistics systems	2 and 11
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/INF/4	Legal identity systems in Asia and the Pacific: civil registration, vital statistics and identity management	7 and 11
ESCAP/MCCRVS/2021/INF/5	Privacy and confidentiality in the context of civil registration and vital statistics systems	7 and 11
<i>Information available online</i>		
https://getinthepicture.org/crvs-decade/second-ministerial-conference	Information for participants	
https://getinthepicture.org/crvs-decade/second-ministerial-conference/programme2021	Tentative programme	