

Agenda item 4 (j) Review of the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific – Statistics

“The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the Ministerial Declaration and provide guidance on its implementation.”

The Philippines, through the Philippine Statistics Authority, which is mandated to carry out, enforce, and administer civil registration functions in the country, supports the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS). Considering the progress made since the beginning of the CRVS decade and the recent developments in CRVS in the Asia-Pacific region, we support the endorsement of the declaration, which demonstrates clear action plans to achieve our shared vision by 2024.

As we approach the conclusion of the CRVS decade, so much more remains to be done in rallying the collective efforts of all relevant stakeholders. Drawing from our national experience, a multi-sectoral approach has proven effective in increasing awareness, improving customer-centric services, and providing timelier and more accurate CRVS data for policy and decision-making. Constant dialogue between different sectors of the government through joint projects with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Interagency Committee on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (IACCRVS) has facilitated the continuous improvement of the CRVS system, particularly, in strengthening capacity, improving coordination, and enhancing collaboration. By creating smoother communication channels, the different government agencies can share experiences, successes, challenges, and lessons learned to develop more robust CRVS systems, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, technology has paved the way toward delivering more efficient civil registration services through the digital transformation of operations. There have also been collaborations with Vital Strategies and the University of Melbourne to improve the timeliness, completeness, and accuracy of vital statistics. These are just some of the ways we have operationalized the implementation of improving the CRVS system.

With the guidance of the Ministerial Declaration and the strong partnership in this Commission, we can accelerate progress to ensure that all people in Asia and the Pacific will indeed benefit from a universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics system.