

PHILIPPINES

Introductory Statement for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (3c)

Good afternoon, distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to introduce this agenda item as Vice-Chair of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

CRVS is a topic of utmost importance both for the Philippines Statistics Authority, as our organization is also responsible for civil registration, and for the region. Indeed, in 2014, a Ministerial Conference proclaimed the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade, 2015-2024, and endorsed the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The Regional Action Framework contains three goals, universal civil registration, provision of legal documentation, and vital statistics based on registration records.

Under the guidance of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, the implementation of the Regional Action Framework is now well underway, with many countries having set up national coordination mechanisms and some having even published their first national vital statistics report based on registration records. The work has highlighted the urgent need to modernize statistical business processes to capture the full benefits of integrated civil registration and vital statistics systems. Moreover, emerging issues, such as the links with identity management systems and the Sustainable Development Goals, are highlighting the importance and expanding the use of well-functioning Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems.

As we are reaching the midpoint of the CRVS Decade, the Regional Steering Group discussed the modalities of the midterm review specified in Regional Action Framework during its last meeting. It was decided to conduct the midterm review at the ministerial level. The idea was that a Ministerial Conference would be the best way to accelerate the progress on improvements and to stress the importance of the emerging issues that were not fully envisaged at the inception of the Framework, such as the links with identity management systems. The decision to convene a Ministerial Conference was then endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-fourth session in May 2018, and will take place in 2020.

Distinguished colleagues,

Countries in Asia and the Pacific have made significant progresses in the implementation of the Framework, and the Ministerial Conference will help renew the political commitment to this area. Therefore, I invite the Committee to support the convening of the Ministerial Conference by mobilizing the statistical community.

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics involves many stakeholders, and also Statistical Offices have important contributions to make to improve the functioning of CRVS systems; also, NSOs will hugely benefit from well-functioning CRVS systems for their vital statistics production. I therefore invite the Committee to (a) ensure that goal 3 of the Regional Action Framework, vital statistics based on registration records, is reached by taking steps towards production of vital statistics reports based on civil registration data; (b) to encourage all relevant agencies to share micro-level data with national statistical offices; and (c) to encourage continued modernization of civil registration and vital statistics systems.