

Committee on Statistics, Seventh Session

Of the Committee on Statistics (Bangkok, 26 to 28 August 2020)

Timor-Leste brief intervention on the agenda item 2

Soliciting whole-of-government support for official statistics in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Civil Registration and Vital statistics Decade 2015-2022

Good morning Mr. Chair and to all delegates

Mr. Chair

1. My delegation would like to emphasize that Timor-Leste recognizes the importance of the committee of statistics and welcomes all the statistic reports as well as its commitments for advancing official statistic for 2030 agenda for sustainable development to leave no one behind.
2. The issues of Civil registration and vital statistic are very important component that help the country to record vital information such as births, deaths and other vital events in order for individual to claim identity, civil status and ensuing rights. Civil registration and vital statistic will ensure that we ‘GET EVERY ONE IN THE PICTURE’ as the main point of the ministerial declaration.
3. Timor-Leste is continuing in its efforts to increase birth registration systems through the expansion of birth registration offices and establishment of an online registry and mobile birth registration. In addition, the government is also gathering updated population data including birth registration through the Population and Housing Census every five years. In order to have more up-to-date and timely data for the country’s social and economic planning, the GoTL is enhancing routine administrative data, including birth registration, and aims to shift the cycle of the Population and Housing Census from the current 5 years to 10 years by 2030.
4. Furthermore, to implement the ministerial declaration, the government of TL has developed and approved the National Action Plan for Children 2016-2020 which stipulated key actions towards universal birth registration and child right related issues. Timor-Leste commits to:
 - ✓ “Strengthening efforts to ensure that all children are provided with birth certificates free of charge, including through mobile units and outreach programmes in remote areas of the State, raise awareness of the importance of birth registration and adopt and implement the draft civil registry code.”
 - ✓ implementing the **Sustainable Development Goal 16: ‘Promote peaceful and inclusive societies** for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels’, and **Target 16.9, ‘By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration’**.
 - ✓ Responding to the **Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific**, and the **Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024)**, in which birth registration is a critical component, the government of TL has adopted the Ministerial Declaration to ‘Get Every One in the Picture’ in Asia and the Pacific.
5. Despite the efforts mentioned Timor-Leste is still facing many challenges. For example, at the community level, there continues to be a lack of awareness on the importance of birth registration, and we need to accelerate the draft civil registration code and address other related challenges.
6. Timor-Leste would like to thank ESCAP for all the support given to our national statistical division and recommended to ESCAP to continue provide a capacity building to support members state like Timor-Leste to strengthening our CRVS systems and be able to implement the eight implementation steps as suggested in the report of CRVS decade 2015-2024.

Thank you Mr. Chair.