

26-28 August 2020

Comments UNSD

**Agenda item 2c - Monitoring progress in response to the Get Every One in the Picture initiative on civil registration and vital statistics**

- In the context of the extensive efforts in the ESCAP region in meeting the goals of the Get in the Picture decade, as documented in the mid-decade assessment and the report of the meeting of the Steering Group, UNSD takes this opportunity to point out the adoption of the **United Nations Legal Identity Agenda** (UN LIA) by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2020.
- The UN Legal Identity Agenda builds on the existing international methodological framework on civil registration and vital statistics and consists of the holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management, calling on all Member States to institute these components in an interoperable manner in order to achieve universal civil registration of all vital events, translated in regular, reliable and comprehensive vital statistics and ensuring legal identity for all by 2030.
- The implementation of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda is seriously and substantially challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic as its adverse impact on the capacity of registering all births and deaths may result in incomplete vital statistics. Focusing on providing guidance to Member States and documenting the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on civil registration, the UN Legal Identity Task Force, which UNSD is co-chairing together with UNDP and UNICEF, developed a series of materials available on its website. These activities will continue as one of the paramount concerns in the wake of the pandemic will be to ensure the quantitative assessment of its impact and measures that need to be implemented to mitigate and hopefully eliminate these negative effects in the future.
- UNSD partnered with the Statistics Division of ESCAP and the SPC in running webinars on the impact of this pandemic on civil registration and vital statistics. It is expected that these efforts will continue in the future as well with a goal of minimizing the harm inflicted on registering vital events and producing complete vital statistics in the region.
- Finally, in the phases of the preparation of the Ministerial Conference, the UN LIA Task Force stands ready to provide any necessary support ensuring that the UN Legal Identity Agenda is firmly incorporated in the Conference's framework and expected outputs.