

STATEMENT

Myanmar's perspectives & priorities for improving CRVS in Asia & the Pacific

**Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Myanmar delegation, I wish to congratulate the Commission for organizing this Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

Civil Registration provides people with documentary evidence to secure recognition of their legal identity. Because of it individual can be accessible to essential services such as health care, education, social welfare and so on. In addition, it enables individuals to enjoy certain rights such as political participation, property ownership and inheritance, etc.

Vital statistics are generated from civil registration. The vital statistics like population estimates, and health statistics are basic requirements for policy making in inclusive and sustainable development. Therefore, CRVS plays an important role not only for individual but also for the society.

Myanmar would, therefore, like to say that we are in favor of Ministerial Declaration and Regional Action Framework of CRVS.

The registration of births and deaths in Myanmar started in 1907. The system was gradually improved year after year in order to reach all the areas to register the vital events. According to Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey-MICS 2010, the birth registration coverage reached up to 72%. However there is a difference between urban and rural, 93.5% and 63.5% respectively.

The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took significant steps to improve the vital registration. There are outstanding developments in 2014:

- First, the coordination committees on Birth and Death Registration were formed at the national level, state/regional level, district level, township level, ward and village tract level. National level committee is led by Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population.
- Second, the forum on birth registration was held in July 2014 to enhance public engagement and participation. This event contributed towards increasing coverage of vital registration.

- Third, the birth registration week was conducted during 20th to 24th October 2014 in two states and one region to enhance the awareness of community on the importance of vital registration.

In addition, with the support of UNICEF and European Union (EU), an electronic platform will be installed in 44 townships before the end of 2014, to demonstrate the effectiveness of permanent recording of birth.

Chair,

Despite these promising initiatives, Myanmar is facing a number of challenges in attaining the desired level of coverage. The most severe challenge is that we do not still have legal framework for CRVS.

In addition, there are other significant challenges. They are:

1. inequitable access to services within the country;
2. lack of linkage between birth registration and public services such as immunization, school enrolment, and application of household registration, etc;
3. lack of community awareness on the importance of birth and death registration.
4. Capacity limitation of the personnel concerned;
5. Limited resources to plan and implement CRVS;

Despite the limitation and challenges, Myanmar is committed to improving national CRVS. The formation of the coordination committee on birth and death registration is the proof of Myanmar government's political commitment and its firm determination.

At present, the Government of Myanmar is working closely with UNICEF in this respect and would like to collaborate with other development partners.

The government of Myanmar would like to invite the donor community to invest in Myanmar to strengthen CRVS.

We are fully confident that with this continuing initiative of the Commission to strengthen CRVS, the dream 'get everyone in the picture' will come into existence within the set timeframe.

Thank you very much.