

## Statement by Secretariat of the Pacific Community (Bangkok, 27 November 2014)

*Chair, Excellencies, Delegates and Colleagues,*

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is an inter-governmental technical organisation supporting the development efforts of its 22 member countries and territories. SPC's Statistics for Development Division works closely with national statistics offices and countries' wider national statistical systems, and one of our core strategic objectives is to provide scaled-up support to the development of **administrative databases and associated management information systems**, with CRVS featuring prominently in our regional efforts.

We are very happy to be here to support countries in their efforts to build and sustain civil registration systems that yield quality and timely vital statistics across the region, which alongside other core social and economic statistics are essential ingredients for evidence-informed policy development and planning, the regular monitoring of policy performance, and to measure development results.

Excellencies, delegates and colleagues,

Functioning administrative databases and associated management information systems, such as provided through civil registration, are more than of mere administrative value, in providing accurate numbers of births and deaths, and address the right of everyone to be counted, and no one be left behind, as we have been hearing throughout this week. Such systems, alongside similar management information systems like EMIS and HIS, are **essential to good government practice**, to provide information at our finger-tips for today's planning decisions, for today's policy responses to today's development challenges – decisions that cannot wait until a survey is conducted in a few years' time, once funding can be secured, and once data are analysed.

Excellencies, delegates and colleagues,

Pacific Island countries have made major improvements to their CRVS systems over the past 4 years, about which we will hear more tomorrow, since the inception of the *Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan 2011-2014* – achievements that would not have been possible without significant political commitments through the Pacific Ministers of Health, the Region's Heads of Statistics and Planning, and unrelenting efforts of National Registrars – forming a powerful and effective tripartite collaboration, providing an essential building block for continued success and improvements. SPC works in a close partnership with ten other technical agencies comprising the **Brisbane Accord Group**, for which it provides the secretariat. This group has committed its ongoing support to working with Pacific island countries to continue strengthening their systems over the coming years.

We would like to conclude by also thanking our financial partners for their regional and bilateral country support, and commend the international community for its plans to establish a *Global Financing Facility* to help ensure, that no one finds themselves having been left behind by 2024.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

27 November 2014