



Second Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration

Durban International Convention Centre
Durban, South Africa
6-7 September
2012

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Theme: Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
Institutional and Human Infrastructure



1. Registration

Conference participants will register at the delegate's registration place and get their pass to access the meeting room in Durban International Convention Centre. While registration will take place the day of the opening, participants are advised to register as soon as their arrival to avoid queuing during that day.

2. Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting will be formally opened by the Guest of Honor of the Republic of South Africa. A welcome statement will be delivered by the Minister of the Department of Home Affairs of the Republic of South Africa. Opening remarks will be made by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Chairperson of the Africa Union Commission (AUC), and the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Keynote statements will be made by the Minister of Health of (name of the minister and country) representing the United Nations Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health and the Minister of Planning and Finance of (name of the minister and country).

3. Election of the Bureau

The composition of the Bureau will be announced following consultations with heads of delegations. The Bureau will comprise of five members as follows: 1 Chairperson, 3 Vice Chairpersons and 1 Rapporteurs elected on the basis of equitable geographic representation.

4. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work

Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the draft provisional agenda and programme of work and propose amendments as deemed necessary.

5. The Role of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in the Africa Integration Agenda

The primary objective of this session is to introduce and engage technical and financial partners (TFPs) actively working in support of the continental CRVS programme with African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration. It is also to meant to facilitate the communication and dialogue between ministers and partners during and after the conference on continental as well as country level issues about CRVS systems. The session further aims at positioning CRVS systems within Africa's Integration agenda as defined by the African Union. The session is expected to provide insights on the importance of CRVS in line with the political, economic and socio-cultural aspects of the integration agenda. The session will further help in formulating policy issues that provide directions in designing interventions.

Under this agenda item, various presentations will be made by regional and international organizations. These will be based on their work at the continental and country levels. The topics selected for the presentations are the following:

- a) Children's and Women's Rights: UNICEF
- b) Monitoring of Development Indicators: UNFPA
- c) Public Health Service and Management: WHO-HMN
- d) Refugees issues and related Challenges: UNHCR
- e) Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHASA): ASSD Secretariat
- f) International Support for the African CRVS improvement Initiative: UNSD

6. Proposal on Policy and Operational Frameworks of the Regional CRVS Initiative

Under this agenda item, a presentation on the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) will be made by a representative of the regional CRVS Core Group. The APAI-CRVS emerged from the necessity of bringing together various CRVS initiatives on the continent into a common and consolidated policy and advocacy framework. The regional programme was developed based on international standards, principles and recommendations of CRVS, and following the political commitment and policy directives of the African ministers in charge of civil registration who called for a holistic and integrated approach to reforming and improving CRVS systems on the continent.

Accordingly, the presentation will cover a brief history of the programme, the layout/ structure of the programme, the status of the implementation of the medium-term CRVS plan (MTP), different actors and stakeholders engaged in the programme and proposed future actions. This presentation will be expected to bring all participants to a common level of understanding on regional policy and programme issues with regard to CRVS. The related policy document is also expected to be endorsed by the ministerial conference.

7. Report on the CRVS Interventions and Results by Regional Organizations and the United Nations

Two interventions will be made during this session. First, results of the comprehensive regional CRVS assessment study and a formal progress report on the regional initiative will be presented by the CRVS Secretariat. The presentation on the assessment study will provide the findings on the status of CRVS in member States, which is based on a study that was undertaken by the Secretariat through a questionnaire. The progress will be reported against activities in the MTP and the ministerial declaration from the first Conference.

This will be followed by a report from members of the regional CRVS Core Group on their engagement, interventions and results achieved in support of the implementation of the MTP since the first Conference.

8. Demonstration of Country Cases by Members States in Selected Areas

Under this agenda item, selected countries will make presentations showcasing good practices in different areas of CRVS. This session is expected to provide an informative forum that will allow knowledge and experience sharing among countries. The presentations will be on the following themes;

- a) CRVS and the Health sector: Namibia and Burundi
- b) CRVS and National ID: Botswana and Senegal
- c) CRVS and Application of IT: Uganda
- d) Service Delivery and CRVS: South Africa

Participants will discuss and comment on the various country experiences with a view to inform the preparation of the ministerial statement.

9. Technical Session

In this session two technical papers will be presented. These presentations will be on the following themes:

- i. Registering Death, Assigning and Certifying Causes of Death and Compilation of Death Statistics under the APAI-CRVS
- ii. Strategic Action Points for Improving CRVS Institutional and Human Infrastructure.

The first presentation will try to propose a shift in approach for improvement of death registration in Africa. It will propose a pragmatic approach in death registration that will be managed under APAI-CRVS. The second presentation will review and propose possible approaches for addressing the existing institutional and human infrastructural challenges of CRVS on the continent.

10. Reviewing Results, Achievements and Country Case Demonstrations and Proposing Programmatic, Policy and Political Actions

This session is meant to provide more time for thorough review of preceding deliberations, specifically results, achievements and country case demonstrations. There will be two interventions, one from a representative of experts and the other from selected ministers to help stir the discussion. The two interventions are expected to provide insights to the policy and programmatic issues that need to be reflected into the ministerial statement.

11. Presentation of Draft Conclusions and Recommendations

The Expert Meeting that was working on drafting the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference will present the final draft to the Ministerial meeting. The draft conclusions and recommendations are expected to provide policy measures that need to be taken at country, regional and international levels towards accelerated improvement of CRVS systems on the continent.

12. Ministerial Statement

Ministers will discuss, amend and forward motions on the proposed draft ministerial statement. Finally, the meeting is expected to endorse the draft ministerial statement.

13. Any other Business

The Conference may wish to consider any other matter that may be brought to its attention.

14. Closing of the Conference

The Chairperson of the Conference will highlight the main outcomes of the Conference and declare the meeting closed.