



## Preparatory Meeting of Experts for the Second Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration

Durban International Convention Centre  
Durban, South Africa  
3-5 September, 2012

# DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

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



## 1. Registration

Participants of the preparatory Meeting of Experts 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 Premier of the province of Kwa Zulu Natal. A welcome statement will be delivered by the representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Opening remarks will be made by officials from the Africa Union Commission (AUC), and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

## 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 Rapporteur 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 proposed amendments as deemed necessary.

## 5. Objectives of the Meeting

A short presentation highlighting the objectives of the meeting will be delivered by the ECA. The presentation will highlight the main objectives, purposes and expected outcomes of the meeting.

## 6. 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 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 engagement/ work at the continental and country levels. The topics selected for the presentations are the following:

- a) CRVS and African Integration: AUC
- b) Children's and Women's Rights: UNICEF
- c) Monitoring of Development Indicators: UNFPA
- d) Public Health Service and Management: WHO-HMN
- e) Refugees Issues and related Challenges: UNHCR
- f) The strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA): ASSD Secretariat
- g) International Support for the African CRVS improvement Initiative: UNSD

#### 7. 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 policy related document is also expected to be endorsed by the ministerial conference.

#### 8. 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.

9. 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;

- i. CRVS and the Health sector: Namibia and Burundi
- ii. CRVS and National ID: Botswana and Senegal
- iii. CRVS and application of IT: Uganda
- iv. Monitoring of CRVS Operations: Nigeria
- v. Service delivery and CRVS: South Africa
- vi. CRVS and Post Conflict Situations: Cote d'ivoire

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

10. Break Away Sessions

The participants to the meeting will break into three working groups and conduct in-depth review of items or issues raised on the APAI-CRVS, the progress reports presented and country case demonstrations. Each of the working groups will be provided with necessary resource materials that will enable participants to filter and propose issues to be reflected in the meeting's conclusions and recommendations. The working groups are expected to present major technical, operational and policy issues to the plenary afterwards.

11. Technical Session

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

- i. Registering Death, Assigning and Certifying Cause of Death and Compilation of Death Statistics under the APAI-CRVS
- ii. Strategic Action Points for Improving CRVS Institutional and Human Infrastructure.
- iii. Strategic Role of the Statistics Sector in Promoting the Implementation of APAI-CRVS

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. The third presentation is expected to demonstrate the role of the statistics sector as a technical and advocacy platform for the promotion of APAI- CRVS.

12. External Experience and Resource Mobilization

This session will focus on learning from the experiences of stakeholders in the private sector and financial partners working on CRVS. The presentations will cover the engagements of these institutions in CRVS and will highlight best practices which the regional programme can learn from. Presentations will be made on the following topics:

- i. The Inter-American Development Bank Experience on CRVS
- ii. The Role of the Private Sector in Improving CRVS
- iii. Financial Partners Perspective on CRVS

13. Discussion and Endorsement of Draft Conclusions and Recommendations

The Expert Meeting will discuss and endorse the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting. The draft conclusions and recommendations are expected to propose policy and programmatic issues that need to be taken at country, regional and international levels towards accelerated improvement of CRVS systems on the continent.

14. Any other Business

The meeting may raise other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

15. Closing of the Meeting

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

16. Country Experts Briefing their Respective Ministers

Country experts are expected to brief their respective ministers on the outcomes of the expert meeting, specifically the proposed draft conclusions and recommendations of the meeting.