



African Union Commission



Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Preparatory Meeting of Experts for the Third
Conference African Ministers responsible
for Civil Registration

AUC/CRMC3/2015/add 2

Yamoussoukro, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
9-11 February 2015

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

*Theme: Promoting the use of civil registration and vital statistics
in support of good governance in Africa*



1. Registration

Participants should register at the delegate registration desk and collect their pass to access the meeting room. While registration will continue throughout the first day of the Meeting of Experts, participants are advised to register as soon as they arrive to avoid queuing during the day.

2. Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting will be opened by a representative of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. A welcome statement will be delivered by a representative of the Africa Union Commission (AUC). Opening remarks will also be made by officials from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

3. Election of the Bureau

The composition of the Bureau will be announced by AUC following consultations with heads of delegations. The Bureau will be made up of five members as follows: one Chair, three Vice-Chairs and one 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 agenda and programme of work, and any proposed amendments as deemed necessary.

5. Objectives of the Meeting

A short presentation highlighting the main objectives and expected outcomes of the Meeting will be delivered by AUC.

6. Towards complete civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems in Africa: understanding where we stand

The objective of this session is to review the progress made by the regional CRVS programme since its inception in 2010. This session will provide an account of the current status against the commitments made at the previous two Conferences. The session will also highlight some of the key achievements and challenges faced in implementing the programme at the regional and country levels. The session will be delivered through a presentation made by the regional core group. The presentation will cover the status of country CRVS system assessments and planning, key lessons learned and interventions needed, human and financial resources required for the regional programme, and the overall management and organization of the regional CRVS initiative.

7. CRVS and good governance in Africa

This session will set the stage for deliberations around the theme of the Conference. The session will begin with a presentation by AUC on the role of CRVS in realizing Agenda 2063. This will be followed by a panel discussion covering the following three main aspects of CRVS that contribute to good governance:

- (a) Civil registration and human rights;
- (b) CRVS and improved service delivery;
- (c) Vital statistics in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

The presentations will provide evidence on how the situation (in the context of the above defined themes) can potentially change and has changed for countries where assessments have been undertaken. The session will be moderated by an expert through a question-and-answer format. The panelists will make brief introductory statements, which will be followed by discussions.

8. Reviewing progress

The objective of this session is for countries to share knowledge and experiences in the development of CRVS systems. In this respect, countries will make presentations on the progress made and challenges faced in implementing their CRVS programmes since the previous Conference, which was held in Durban in 2012. The presentations will cover the following aspects:

- (a) Status of conducting comprehensive assessments and development of improvement plans – processes followed and challenges faced;
- (b) Key steps taken, initiated and planned, in the development of CRVS systems;
- (c) Challenges encountered.

During the session, participants will be split into five breakaway groups – two each in English and French, and one in Arabic and Portuguese. The secretariat will provide a guidance note on how the session will be conducted. A presentation template will also be provided by the secretariat. At the end of the session, the breakaway groups will be required to submit key recommendations from their respective discussions to the secretariat.

9. Priority themes in the context of good governance

This session will consist of a detailed discussion on the theme of the conference, and more specifically the following six priority thematic areas:

- (a) Role of the health sector in CRVS

This session will look at the role of the health sector as a provider of information on vital events such as births and deaths (including causes of death), as well as key user of civil registration records and vital statistics for policy and programme interventions. Strategies for improving the recording and compiling of cause-of-death will also be discussed. The session will start with a presentation by WHO and ECA on role of the health sector in CRVS, followed by a joint presentation by WHO and INDEPTH Network on causes of death. There will also be presentations by two countries with best practices in this area – one in which the health sector has significantly contributed

to the improvement of vital event registration and another that has made significant progress in collecting and compiling cause-of-death information.

(b) Children's rights and CRVS

This session, in addition to discussing the importance of CRVS in realizing children's rights, will also present the 'General Comments on Article 6 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child'. A general presentation on children's rights and CRVS will be made. Specific highlights of the General Comment will be presented by AUC.

(c) Registration-based vital statistics for development planning and monitoring

This session will focus on the use of vital statistics in decentralized planning and measurement of progress in development, particularly in the context of the demands of the post-2015 agenda and Agenda 2063 which both call for sustainable and inclusive development. UNFPA, the ASSD secretariat and AUC will give a joint presentation, followed by presentations from two countries sharing their best practices.

(d) Information and communications technology and CRVS

In this session the importance of ICT in improving registration coverage and services will be discussed. The session will begin with a presentation from ECA and AfDB on the various uses of ICT in CRVS. This will be followed by a presentation by Plan International on the outline of a manual on ICT and CRVS that is being developed for use by African countries. Two countries will be selected to present their experiences on how they have used ICT for the improvement of CRVS.

(e) CRVS and identity management systems

This session will begin with a presentation by AUC, ECA and AfDB (on behalf of the regional CRVS core group) on the importance of establishing linkages between CRVS and identity management systems. This will be followed by presentations by two countries that have established such linkages.

(f) CRVS in situations of conflict and emergencies

The session will begin with a statement by the AUC on the topic. Three countries will

share their experiences on their challenges in maintaining CRVS systems in the context of conflict and emergencies (including natural disasters).

(g) **Gender and CRVS**

This session will highlight various gender issues in CRVS. This will include gender aspects in registration laws and processes as well as gender statistics emanating from the CRVS systems. There will be two presentations, one by UN-Women, UNFPA and AUC on gender and CRVS, and another by the Data 2x on the same topic, but providing details of the recent partnership between Data 2x and the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS).

10. Reviewing the organization and management of APAI-CRVS

This session will focus on the regional capability to coordinate and support countries in the development of CRVS systems. The session will explore different models, and provide strategies for resources and a resourcing plan for implementation. The session will consist of a presentation made by the regional CRVS core group, followed by a detailed discussion involving national delegates.

11. Financing CRVS in Africa

This session will discuss the recent global and regional efforts to finance CRVS plans at the regional and country levels, taking into account the organization and management of the regional CRVS programme. AfDB will present its plans for investment, while the World Bank, WHO and Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and child health will present details of the Global Financing Facility for the ‘Every Women Every Child’ initiative. There will be two country presentations sharing experiences on an integrated approach to financing CRVS plans.

12. Discussion and endorsement of the draft conclusions and recommendations

The participants will discuss the report of the expert meeting and the draft resolutions and statement for the ministers.

13. Any other business

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

14. Closing of the Meeting

The Chair will highlight the main outcomes of the Meeting and declare it closed.

15. Country experts brief their respective ministers

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