



African Union Commission



Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Third Conference of African Ministers responsible for
Civil Registration

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**Progress made against the commitments of previous sessions of the
Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration**

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



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Introduction

The Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) is being implemented based on the policy and programmatic guidance provided by African ministers responsible for civil registration through the resolutions made at the previous two sessions of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration. At the first session of the Conference, held in Addis Ababa in 2010, ministers recognized civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) as a development imperative for Africa and made clear commitments to improving CRVS in their respective countries. At the second session of the Conference, which took place in Durban, South Africa, in 2012, ministers recommended specific, practical steps for achieving complete and efficient CRVS systems. They tasked the three pan-African institutions – the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank – with supporting APAI-CRVS, and called upon other development partners to take part in the regional initiative.¹ In 2012, the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration was institutionalized as a statutory body of the African Union Commission.

Some of the highlights from deliberations during previous sessions of the Conference include the need for capacity-building, coordination among stakeholder ministries, partnership with the health sector, improved accessibility, a review of the legislative framework for CRVS, adequate human and financial resources for CRVS programmes, monitoring and evaluation of the regional initiative and country programmes, and operational research on specific subjects, particularly on how to improve death registration and the collection of cause-of-death information in Africa (for further detail, see annex 1).

The present paper reviews the progress made in the implementation of APAI-CRVS over the past two years, against the commitments made by African ministers responsible for civil registration. Annex 1 summarizes the actions taken or initiated on some of the key points and seeks to draw the attention of ministers to emerging issues.

Key achievements and progress made

1. In 2012 the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration was institutionalized as a standing forum of the African Union Commission. The Conference will be held every two years to take stock of the progress made in implementing the regional CRVS programme and to provide policy and programmatic guidance. The institutionalization of the Conference was approved during the nineteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, on the recommendation of the Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance. In line with the recommendations of these high-level gatherings, the third session of the Conference of

¹ APAI-CRVS is now implemented by a regional core group consisting of AUC, AfDB, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNHCR, INDEPTH Network, Plan International, Statistics South Africa (as the secretariat of the African Symposium on Statistical Development) and ECA, which acts as the secretariat of the group.

Ministers responsible for Civil Registration will be the first to be held under the auspices of the African Union Commission.

2. The regional CRVS programme is supported by a group of pan-African institutions, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, which together form the regional CRVS core group. The objective of this partnership is to bring together all of the key CRVS actors on the continent to work within a common framework. Set up in 2011, the core group is intended to harmonize approaches, harness synergies and thus help to avoid duplication of efforts. It provides technical and financial support to APAI-CRVS. A subregional core group, made up of the same institutions and based in the Subregional Office for West Africa, in Niamey, was created in 2013 to serve the specific needs of French-speaking African countries. The core group arrangement is currently being formalized through a memorandum of understanding, which will be the basis for a more sustainable partnership.
3. The core group has continued to implement its mandate of building the capacities of African countries in the management and operation of CRVS systems. Two sets of guidelines are being developed, namely, “Operational guidelines on civil registration” and “Operational guidelines on vital statistics systems”, the first drafts of which are already available. The guidelines are intended to address knowledge gaps on how to tackle various aspects of CRVS, and are adapted to the African context. It is hoped that the guidelines will help to build the knowledge and capacities of countries in efficient management and operation of CRVS systems. In addition, plans are underway to develop three more guidelines, namely, “Operational guidelines on advocacy and information, education and communication”, “Guidelines on the digitization of civil registration and vital statistics systems”, and “Guidelines on the management of civil registration backlogs”. These documents are expected to be available for use by countries by the end of 2015.
4. The second session of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration made specific recommendations requesting all African countries to urgently undertake comprehensive assessments of their CRVS systems and to develop national action plans to strengthen the systems, based on the findings of the assessments. The ministers also called upon the regional CRVS core group to provide the necessary technical and financial support to countries. In response to this call, the core group developed a set of resource documents to guide countries in conducting the assessments and developing the plans of action. The documents include “A comprehensive assessment tool for the civil registration and vital statistics system”, “Guidelines on how to undertake CRVS comprehensive assessments: a guideline for strategic planning”, and “A facilitator’s handbook for strategic planning”. These documents are already available for use by countries and will continue to be updated on a regular basis, based on the inputs received from users.
5. In addition, the core group has initiated efforts to build the technical capacity of personnel engaged in CRVS operations in African countries. In May 2013, the core group conducted a comprehensive training session on CRVS, in which 31 African experts participated. The session was intended to help to develop a team of experts who could support countries in undertaking the assessments and planning processes. The session gave the experts the methodologies and tools needed to undertake successful CRVS assessments, and also provided them with orientation on the management and operation of CRVS. A group of seven young African professionals from the ISIBalo programme were also trained. In December 2014, the core group, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division, facilitated a workshop for 37 country experts on the newly revised *Principles and*

Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System publication. The plan for the future is to routinely provide similar training sessions and to expand the existing pool of experts over time to cover every African country. In this respect, additional training sessions for French-speaking experts will be held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, following the Conference. The core group has also initiated plans to develop a sustainable CRVS capacity development programme for African countries.

6. A total of 22 African countries have already conducted CRVS assessments and developed (or are in the process of developing) national plans of action based on the assessments. The core group has contributed immensely to this process by supporting the development of the required resource materials and helping Governments to find funding for the various components of the assessment and planning processes.
7. The regional CRVS initiative has continuously and successfully promoted the collaboration of CRVS actors at the country level (mainly statistics offices and civil registration authorities). The seventh edition of the African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) was the first ever continent-wide meeting between civil registration authorities and heads of national statistics offices. Some of the key recommendations included strengthening coordination between national statistics offices and civil registration offices, and enhancing the roles and responsibilities of the two players in the operational aspects of CRVS at the country level. The eighth and ninth editions of the Symposium went a step further by involving officials from ministries of health, in recognition of the important role of the health sector as a producer and user of vital statistics from civil registration, as a key player and potential resource in the registration of births and deaths, and as a core actor in the accurate recording and certification of death and the collection of cause-of-death information. The third session of the Conference aims to strengthen these partnerships further, particularly through the participation of health ministers.
8. The core group has established a regional CRVS web-based knowledge management platform that will provide the basis for knowledge and information-sharing and, just as importantly, monitoring and evaluation of the regional CRVS programme. The platform will also allow for sharing and exchange of CRVS knowledge products and information between countries, development partners, and training and research institutions. The platform is intended to foster partnerships, networking and collaboration; facilitate resource management; monitor improvement efforts; coordinate the regional CRVS core group and other development partners; and support member States in reporting on their progress and improvement efforts.

Challenges

9. The core challenge faced by the regional programme is the lack of systematic funding for the implementation of the medium-term plan at the regional and country levels. The funding for the programme, largely sourced from development partners, has been inadequate and ad hoc in nature. The unpredictability of resources has affected the smooth implementation of the programme, including sustaining the human resources required to run the secretariat. With regard to the implementation of the programme at the national level, it is envisaged that by 2015, over 20 countries should have comprehensive CRVS investment plans in place. Although the bulk of the funding for the plans will come from Governments, some countries will require catalytic funds to kick-start implementation. The availability of such funding has critical implications for the success of the

regional initiative. It is therefore pertinent for the ministers to deliberate on this issue and provide strategic guidance.

10. Many African Governments and regional economic communities are increasingly focusing on and committing resources towards the establishment of national identification systems. There are significant risks posed by this, as most of these resource-intensive national identification systems are being developed with no organic link to civil registration systems. The civil registration system should essentially be the primary source of breeder documents on birth, death and marriages for national identification systems. The existing approaches on the continent largely fail to recognize and apply these underlying principles. The risk is that Governments and their development partners may divert resources and attention towards building national identification systems, without giving due attention to building efficient and complete civil registration systems.
11. Most countries lack mechanisms and the capacity to routinely monitor the development of their civil registration systems and therefore cannot adequately report on any improvements emerging from their interventions. The lack of monitoring at country level also impacts on the ability to monitor the progress and achievements of the regional CRVS initiative.
12. Capacity development continues to remain a challenge. Although the country-led process of assessments currently underway is helping to develop capacity across the continent, there is a need to build a more systematic approach in this regard on management, operational and technical aspects. The core group is planning to develop a strategy and action plan in collaboration with other relevant institutions for a more sustainable approach to CRVS capacity-building on the continent.

ANNEX 1

No	Ministers' declaration	Key action points	Progress made so far
1.	<p>Conference I; Statement 9.3 The African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD), which has hitherto focused on mobilizing Africa to fully participate in the 2010 round of population and housing census, to give priority to mobilizing Africa to improve CRVS systems</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 4 Recall the commitments made at our first conference held in Addis Ababa in August 2010, to consider and prioritize CRVS as a regional policy agenda, and to take steps to reform and improve CRVS systems in our countries. In this regard, we acknowledge that the theme of our second Conference is both timely and relevant for achieving viable, sustainable and efficient CRVS systems in Africa</p>	<p>Continue to advocate for the primacy of CRVS as a continental development agenda within the various regional statistical fora such as ASSD and STATCOM Africa</p>	<p>a) The eighth and ninth ASSDs held in Gaborone and Yamoussoukro focused on CRVS. The symposia held various technical sessions for advocacy as well as building the capacity of countries on the subject.</p> <p>b) A report on the progress of CRVS in Africa was submitted to the fourth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa.</p> <p>c) The tenth ASSD, held in Kampala, similarly conducted sessions that addressed various technical and operational aspects of CRVS.</p> <p>d) As part of the celebrations to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity, the African Union Commission in May 2013 hosted a high-level panel on CRVS aimed at advocating for the primacy of CRVS systems in realizing development on the continent. The panel's discussions were held on the theme "eliminating the scandal of invisibility". The discussions were aired on international media and received audiences from all over the continent.</p>
2.	<p>Conference I; Statement 10 We request the African Union Commission to consider institutionalizing the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration as a standing regional platform to meet biannually, for discussion and evaluation of political and policy issues related to civil registration and vital statistics in Africa</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 5 Note with satisfaction the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (Ref; ssembly/AU/DEC.424) endorsing the recommendation of our first session on the institutionalization of the Conference as a standing regional forum of the African Union to deal with matters concerning civil registration</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 20</p>	<p>The African Union to undertake the relevant institutional arrangements to facilitate its roles with respect to the institutionalization of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, including taking leadership in organizing the following Conference</p> <p>Develop standard operating procedures and other relevant documents that will guide the running of the Conference, specifically outlining the roles and responsibilities of ECA (the secretariat) and those of the African Union Commission</p> <p>The African Union Commission to</p>	<p>a) The African Union has taken leadership in the organization of the Conferences. The third session of the Conference is being organized under the auspices of the African Union Commission with the support of the regional core group. All future sessions will be conducted within the same framework.</p> <p>b) These documents are yet to be developed.</p> <p>c) Yet to be achieved.</p>

No	Ministers' declaration	Key action points	Progress made so far
	The African Union to allocate the necessary financial and technical resources in support of the CRVS development agenda	provide the required human and financial resources to support the regional CRVS agenda	
3.	<p>Conference I; Statement 9.1 ECA, AfDB, and AUC, as well as other development partners, to continue to support our efforts in capacity-building and mobilizing resources</p> <p>Conference I; Statement 9.7 Call upon the United Nations Statistics Division, the Health Metrics Network and other development partners to strengthen their support for regional and national CRVS initiatives and programmes, including aligning their assistance accordingly</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 7 Commend the CRVS secretariat at ECA on its current efforts in coordinating international and regional interventions by creating regional platforms such as the CRVS regional core group and stakeholders forum</p>	<p>Support countries in capacity-building initiatives, including their efforts towards conducting comprehensive assessments and the development of national action plans</p> <p>Strengthen partnership among the various CRVS actors by developing a memorandum of understanding and other relevant documentation to strengthen and formalize the partnership of the regional CRVS core group</p> <p>Strengthen partnership with the United Nations Statistics Division</p>	<p>a. The Core Group has continued to support countries' capacity-building initiatives by providing them with the human and financial resources required to undertake comprehensive assessments and develop national plans of action. Specifically, the core group has supported the development of various regional guidelines and tools to support the assessment and planning processes and facilitated the finances required to cover the training, assessment and planning of undertakings at the regional and the country level.</p> <p>b. Ministers may wish to issue a directive for the creation of a special group that will follow up on this issue.</p> <p>c. The core group has also steered significant efforts towards mobilizing resources to support the African regional CRVS programme at the global level. The core group, represented by the secretariat, is among the founders of the global CRVS group, which establishes critical partnerships for CRVS in the region.</p> <p>d. A draft of the memorandum of understanding was developed and shared with the agencies belonging to the core group. The draft is currently under review by the individual agencies. The memorandum provides a framework of cooperation and facilitates collaboration between member agencies to further their shared goals and objectives relating to CRVS and the mobilization of resources for CRVS in Africa.</p> <p>e. The secretariat has been working closely with the United Nations Statistics Division in delivering training on international CRVS standards and guidelines in African countries. They recently organized a joint workshop in Addis Ababa in which selected countries were oriented on the newly revised <i>Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System</i>.</p>
4.	<p>Conference II; Statement 8 Commend and welcome the contribution of the Young African Statisticians in the development of CRVS in</p>	Continue to support initiatives for building the capacity of young African statisticians on CRVS issues	<p>a. The core group has increasingly supported the capacity-building of young African statisticians. ECA has, over the past two years, provided fellowship placements with a view to mentoring young</p>

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	Africa, including their participation in this Conference		statisticians on CRVS; supported the training of young statisticians in CRVS systems; and encouraged countries to involve their young statisticians in country CRVS assessments. Other core group agencies have supported the participation of young statisticians in continental meetings and other regional fora on CRVS, including the ministerial segment of the Conference.
5.	<p>Conference II; Statement 9 Welcome the participation and contribution of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the role of the private sector in the future development of CRVS systems in Africa</p>	<p>Continue to invite NGOs and the private sector to participate in the development of CRVS system, including in future ministerial conferences and other CRVS fora</p>	<p>a. NGOs have been invited to join the regional CRVS core group. The INDEPTH Network recently joined the core group and will support the secretariat in undertaking research and developing operational guidelines and standards on death registration.</p> <p>b. NGOs and the private sector have continued to be invited to various fora on CRVS including ASSD and ministerial conferences.</p>
6.	<p>Conference II; Statement 12 Recognize that civil registration is a regular government operation with far-reaching implications for national security, policy, governance, planning, development monitoring and evaluation</p>	<p>Develop a policy and advocacy document on the role of CRVS in promoting good governance in Africa</p>	<p>a. A technical paper on good governance and CRVS is under development.</p>
7.	<p>Conference I; Statement 9.2 ECA, AfDB and AUC to undertake an evaluation of national CRVS systems and finalize the draft medium-term regional plan and guidelines and report to the next session of the Conference of Ministers</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 14 Note that the challenge before us now is to reaffirm our commitment and scale up efforts to reform and improve CRVS systems in our countries. In this regard, we fully endorse the recommendations of our experts on strategies for improving CRVS as well as the proposed Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital improvement of CRVS at the national and regional levels.</p>	<p>Undertake an evaluation of national CRVS systems and finalize the draft medium-term regional plan and guidelines</p> <p>Proceed to implement APAI-CRVS through its regional medium-term plan</p>	<p>a. An evaluation of national CRVS systems was undertaken and results reported to the second session of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration. The regional medium-term was also completed.</p> <p>b. APAI-CRVS is in its second phase of implementation. Although the medium-term plan expires in 2015, there are a number of activities that are yet to be implemented. It is recommended that the timeline for implementation is extended to 2017 to allow for the implementation of the remaining set of activities.</p> <p><i>The ministers will be requested to endorse the extension of the timeframe of the medium-term plan and call upon the secretariat and core group for speedier implementation.</i></p>
8.	<p>Conference I; Statement 8.2 We commit to revise and update our CRVS laws and statistical legislation in line with international and regional guidelines and recommendations, by allocating adequate human and financial resources for this purpose</p>	<p>Countries to revise and update civil registration and statistical legislation in line with international guidelines and taking into account the evolving needs and innovations</p>	<p>a. The progress achieved by individual countries in strengthening CRVS systems is being assessed through comprehensive assessments and will be addressed in the national action plan.</p> <p><i>The ministers may like to reiterate their commitments for every country</i></p>

No	Ministers' declaration	Key action points	Progress made so far
	<p>Conference II; Statement 15 (a) We commit to continue our efforts in revising and updating civil registration and statistical legislation in our respective countries in line with regional and international guidelines and taking into account the evolving needs and innovations</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 15 (k) Continue to take steps to improve the availability and accessibility of civil registration services by devolving services to local levels through existing structures and service networks, in particular the health sector</p>	<p>Countries to work towards improving accessibility of civil registration services to the public</p>	<p><i>to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the CRVS system and to develop costed national action plans based on the findings of the assessments.</i></p>
9.	<p>Conference II; Statement 15 (c) Adopt appropriate technologies to speed up and scale up civil registration, manage civil registration records, and ensure their integrity and security against natural disasters, civil wars, etc.</p>	<p>The core group to provide the required technical support to countries by developing regional guidelines on the digitization of CRVS systems</p>	<p>a. These issues are being systematically identified and addressed through comprehensive assessments.</p> <p>b. The first outline of the digitization guidelines is available and will be presented during the expert session of the Conference, for review and further input by country experts. The draft will be finalized by mid-2015.</p>
d)	<p>Conference II; Statement 15 (d) Accord high priority to CRVS and ensure the allocation of adequate human and financial resources for the day-to-day operation of CRVS systems in our countries, including implementation of national action plans, in order to ensure sustainability and country ownership</p>	<p>Countries to allocate adequate financial resources for CRVS programmes</p> <p>Countries to allocate adequate human resources for efficient operation of CRVS programmes</p>	<p>a. The progress achieved by individual countries in strengthening CRVS systems in this regard is being assessed through comprehensive assessments and will be addressed in the national action plan.</p>
e)	<p>Conference II; Statement 15 (f) Invite the Independent Expert Review Group on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health to participate in APAI-CRVS</p>	<p>The secretariat to invite the Independent Expert Review Group on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health to participate in APAI-CRVS</p>	<p>a. The secretariat has provided a report of the progress made by APAI-CRVS to the Independent Expert Review Group every year since 2012.</p>

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f)	<p>Conference I; Statement 8.1 Mainstream CRVS processes into national statistical development strategies and other national plans and programmes, including strengthening the coordination of activities among various departments and ministries at national, subregional and regional levels</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 15 (g) Establish high-level coordination mechanisms involving all relevant stakeholders for efficient functioning of CRVS systems, taking into account the multi-sectoral and integrated nature of civil registration services</p> <p>Conference I; Statement 9.6 The health sector to align the health system with CRVS systems to improve coordination and sharing of data on births and deaths with assigned causes for all deaths, with national statistical offices and CRVS authorities</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 15 (h) Ensure the alignment of health information management systems and CRVS systems and that both be mainstreamed into national strategies for the development of statistics</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 15 (i) Further strengthen and facilitate coordination between national statistical offices and civil registration authorities in managing and monitoring the challenges of CRVS systems</p>	<p>Countries to adopt the following key strategies:</p> <p>a. Mainstream CRVS into national statistical development strategies or programmes;</p> <p>b. Establish a high-level coordination committee composed of the relevant key sector ministries;</p> <p>c. Build strong collaboration mechanisms with the health sector and ensure the alignment of health information systems with CRVS systems;</p> <p>d. Strengthen coordination between national statistical offices and civil registration authorities.</p>	<p>a. Most countries have made progress in the establishment of a high-level committee and a technical working group to oversee the national CRVS programme.</p> <p>b. The progress achieved by individual countries in strengthening CRVS systems in this regard is being systematically identified and addressed through comprehensive assessment.</p>
g)	<p>Conference II; Statement 15 (j) Develop results-based monitoring and evaluation systems and tools to monitor and report on progress on CRVS</p>	<p>Countries to regularly monitor and evaluate the performance of their CRVS programmes</p> <p>The secretariat to develop relevant platforms to document and monitor progress made by member States in the improvement of CRVS systems</p>	<p>a. The secretariat, supported by the core group, has developed an online knowledge management platform which will, among other things, be used to document and monitor progress made by member States in the improvement of CRVS systems.</p> <p>b. The secretariat plans to develop a technical note that will provide systematic guidance to countries on how to monitor the performance of their CRVS systems</p> <p><i>The Ministers may suggest the setting up of a monitoring and evaluation</i></p>

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			<i>framework for CRVS in every country</i>
h)	<p>Conference I; Statement 8.3 Intensify awareness-raising campaigns on the procedures and importance of CRVS systems, to ensure effective functioning of the systems.</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 15 (i) Intensify awareness-raising campaigns to educate the public on the importance and procedures of CRVS to ensure their effective functioning;</p>	<p>Countries to intensify public awareness campaigns on the importance of CRVS</p>	<p>a. The progress achieved by individual countries in strengthening CRVS systems in this regard is being assessed through comprehensive assessments and will be addressed in the national action plan.</p>
i)	<p>Conference II; Statement 16 Member States to undertake in-depth assessment of the state of their national civil registration systems and develop a strategic and action plans for improving CRVS systems</p>	<p>Countries to conduct comprehensive assessments of CRVS systems and to develop national plans of action</p> <p>The regional core group to provide the relevant technical and financial support to countries in undertaking comprehensive assessments and the development of national plans of action</p>	<p>a. There are 22 countries that have completed comprehensive assessments, 15 of which have also developed national plans. The rest are in the process of developing their plans.</p> <p>b. The regional core group has provided the required technical and financial support to countries undertaking assessments. The technical support has been in the form of tools and guidelines to support the assessment as well experts on the subject to guide the processes in countries.</p>
j)	<p>Conference II; Statement 17 The secretariat and other partner organizations to continue to provide technical support to reinforce the capacity of member States in CRVS operations and management, through technical advisory services, workshops, training and provision of guidelines. In this regard, we request the secretariat to establish a regional knowledge hub on CRVS that promotes research to build technical capacity at the national, regional and continental levels</p>	<p>Develop the relevant resource documents and other materials to support countries in building complete CRVS systems</p> <p>Continue to build the knowledge and capacity of countries regarding CRVS by providing training and technical advisory services where required</p>	<p>a. The regional core group has developed the following resource materials to support countries in the assessments and in the development of national CRVS plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessment tools • assessment guidelines • guidelines on strategic planning • a pool of resource persons to support countries in the assessment and planning processes
k)	<p>Conference II; Statement 19 We request the secretariat to undertake operational research in the area of death registration and cause-of-death certification in Africa</p>	<p>The secretariat to conduct operational research in the area of death registration and cause-of-death certification in Africa</p>	<p>a. This activity is yet to be implemented.</p>
l)	<p>Conference I; Statement 9.4 ECA to consider establishing a substantive post on civil registration and vital statistics with appropriate support staff at the African Centre for Statistics to ensure the</p>	<p>Member States and development partners to provide the relevant support in institutionalizing the CRVS secretariat at the African Centre for</p>	<p>a. This activity is yet to be implemented. During the past two years partners have been supporting a few staff, but the staffing arrangements are largely ad hoc and short term in nature. The partners are working towards a more permanent structure, but until</p>

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	<p>sustainability of ongoing efforts to improve CRVS systems in Africa</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 18 Member States and development partners to reinforce the CRVS secretariat at ECA with adequate resources and appropriate staff, to enable it carry out its mandate as recommended by the first session of the Conference</p>	<p>Statistics with the necessary complement of staff</p>	<p>that is achieved, the partners are trying to provide support for relatively longer periods of time.</p>
m)	<p>Conference II; Statement 19 Invite African ministers of health to join us in view of the important role of the health sector in the delivery of civil registration services, to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to addressing the challenges of improving CRVS systems in Africa</p>	<p>Invite ministers of health to the third session of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration</p> <p>Develop a policy and advocacy paper on the linkages between CRVS and the health sector</p>	<p>a. Ministers of health from all African countries were invited to the third session of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration.</p>
n)	<p>Conference I; Statement 9.5 Universities and national and regional statistical and demographic training institutions to enhance or develop appropriate curricula for building capacity and improving CRVS systems in Africa</p> <p>Conference II; Statement 20 Relevant national universities and regional research and training institutions to respond to the demand for improved death registration and cause-of-death certification in countries, with the support of development partners</p>	<p>Develop a strategy paper on building sustainable CRVS capacity in the region, including strategies to collaborate with existing research and training institutions in generating knowledge on improving death registration and cause-of-death certification</p>	<p>a. A proposal for funding for this activity has already been submitted. The activity is expected to commence in mid-2015.</p>
o)	<p>Conference II; Statement 22 & 23 We reaffirm our commitment to making the Conference a dynamic forum that is used to discuss policy and strategic issues related to improving CRVS systems in Africa; in this regard, we undertake to support the African Union Commission in its implementation processes</p>	<p>Member States to continue to participate at the biennial ministerial conferences and support the African Union Commission in the implementation of this resolution</p>	<p>Members States have continued to participate in this the biennial conference.</p>
p)	<p>Conference II We look forward to our next Conference, which is to be hosted by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in September 2014</p>	<p>The Government of Côte d'Ivoire to host the third session of the Conference</p>	<p>The conference was postponed due to unavoidable administrative challenges faced by the organizers</p>