

Item (6)

**Statement**

**By**

**His Excellency  
AHM Mustafa Kamal MP, FCA  
Honourable Minister for Planning  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Asia and  
the Pacific

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Bangladesh's Election Commission has also developed a separate electronic database of more than 90 million people aged 18 years and above, using biometrics, building a strong foundation for our National ID system and free-fair elections. Our Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has developed a shared health-record database for nearly 100 million people for providing free health services in 12 thousand community clinics in rural areas. Our Statistics and Informatics Division and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics are developing the national database of the entire population for efficient targeting of beneficiaries of our more than 100 Social Safety Net Programs. All these data-bases we believe, will be key contributors towards creating a comprehensive CRVS system, aimed at ensuring basic rights of our people including food, education, healthcare and employment.

Under our government's 'Vision 2021'-transforming Bangladesh into a knowledge-based digitally-driven Middle Income Country by 2021, our Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has been constantly modernizing our vital statistics compilation systems. The Bureau is currently generating nationally representative vital statistics like fertility, mortality, nuptiality, migration, expectation of life etc. on an annual basis.

Investment in our national registration and statistics endeavors have contributed deeply in not only achieving the Millennium Development Goals but also in showcasing them globally. Bangladesh has already achieved MDGs 1, 2,3, 4 and 5 and is on its way to achieving 6 and 7. We were awarded the MDG Award 2010, South-South Award in 2011 for digital health services and in 2013 for more than halving poverty since 1990s, the WHO GAVI awards for 2011 and 2012 for achieving all health related MDGs, to name a few.

**Mr. Chair,**

Bangladesh remains steadfast in its progressive realization of an effective and comprehensive National CRVS system. Our greatest strength remains strong political commitment from none other than our Prime Minister. Our political commitment is matched by a strong institutional framework mainstreamed into our 'Digital Bangladesh' Vision that vows to improve digitalized service delivery to all our citizens specially in the post-2015 era. We strongly believe that an effective and comprehensive CRVS system will help us build a stronger Digital Bangladesh by 2021 and enable us to deliver services reducing cost, time and hassle to citizens. Therefore, linking CRVS to social service delivery is critical in our national strategy for building, updating and using this system by all agencies of the government and making it more compelling to our citizens.

Our initiative to take whole-of-government approach for our country's CRVS led by the Access-to-Information Program of the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Division and supported by a Cabinet Steering Committee headed by is contributing to effective coordination and policy guidelines. A national CRVS Strategy is underway under a working group by conducting pilots in this regard. We remain confident that with all these national initiatives, support from our development partners including the UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, WHO, WB and the UNESCAP as well as learning from best practices in peer countries, Bangladesh will be able to showcase significant progress towards a functional CRVS system much sooner than later.

**Distinguished delegates,**

We remain conscious of our national and global challenges towards a comprehensive CRVS system. While we prioritize to address our national challenges, we call upon the international community specially our development

partners, regional and global institutions including the UNESCAP for predictable technical, institutional and financial support for realizing our CRVS efforts. We remain committed to a consensus Ministerial declaration and an inclusive Regional Action Framework. One that upholds the development aspirations of our diverse Asia-Pacific countries, specially of LDCs, Landlocked and Small Island Developing countries in the post-2015 Development agenda.

I thank you

all for your patient hearing.