

Statement by H.E PRUM SOKHA, Secretary of State

Ministry of Interior

Head of Delegation

Royal Government of Cambodia

Revised

The Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, November 24-28, 2014

- Her Excellency **Shamshad Akhtar**, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
- Excellencies Ministers, Vice-Ministers,
- Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Today, I am honored and delighted to attend **The Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific** to be held at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

At the outset, on behalf of Cambodian delegation and myself, I would like to express my high appreciation to **the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** for inviting us to participate in this important meeting.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank ESCAP, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO, ADB and Plan International for organizing the Conference.

This gathering provides a beautiful platform for discussion and exchange of experiences, views, perspectives, best practices, and lessons learned that can be customized for the regional efforts in achieving our vision *"Get every one in the picture."* I am convinced that through this multinational forum our cooperation and partnership to improve the CRVS in the region will be strengthened and achieved, building a perfect ground to reach our set goal *"Asia Pacific CRVS 2015-2024."*

The Kingdom of Cambodia has built a Civil Registration and Vital Statistics from scratch since the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975 resulted in full abolishment of the system until its rebirth following the UN-sponsored election in 1993. In this connection, the country is committed to establishing an efficient Civil Registration System. Since 1993, a number of national legal instruments have been adopted such as the Constitution, Law on Nationality in 1996, Subdecree on Civil Registration in 2000, and many other regulations. Recently, the Royal Government of Cambodia has been drafting

Law on Civil Registration in order to improve the Civil Registration System in Cambodia, providing legal basis for establishing a Single Identification System. In order to attain this objective, the Royal Government of Cambodia had upgraded the civil registration affair with the creation of General Department of Identification in May 2014 and the launching of the “Preliminary Plan for Identification Management 2014-2015” that leads to the formulation of the “10 years National Strategic Planning on Identification 2015-2024.” In the formulating process of the national strategic plan, Ministry of Interior will closely coordinate with the Ministry of Planning (National Institute of Statistics), Ministry of Health and the other relevant stakeholders to make sure the efficient functioning of CRVS systems and take into account the multi-sectorial and integrated nature of civil registration services.

In spite of the achievement up to date, the Kingdom of Cambodia like some Asia Pacific Countries is facing great challenges in transforming the paper-based civil registration to computerized approach. In addition to that, the registration of the children from the migrant families remains a problem even though Cambodia is firmly committed to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Worker and Members of their Families in 2003. However, the recently government reform makes sure that all who are born in a country must be able to register without discrimination. I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound thanks to the Development Partners notably the Plan International, ADB, the Government of Sweden, and UNICEF for supporting financially and technically the process of modernization of civil registration in Cambodia.

Nevertheless, I believe we still have a long way to go because no matter how committed we are and the partnership and friendship we build, the improvement of the CRVS remains a complicated issue. To overcome the challenges and reach our objectives, with the new chapter of a strong collaboration and mutual understating through the endorsement of **the Ministerial Declaration and Regional Action Framework** today, I would like to encourage all governments, Development Partners, Civil Society and stakeholders to actively support the Conference’s agenda to strengthen and expand the regional and global cooperation, friendship, and efforts to achieve our common goals in establishing an integrated civil registration in the Asia Pacific.

Last but not least, I would like to affirm that Cambodia supports **the Ministerial Declaration and Regional Action Framework** and I would like to wish Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen all the participants the four gems of Buddhist Blessing: *Longevity, Nobility, Healthiness, and Strength!*

Thank you!