

**Pakistan Statement at the First Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration  
and Vital Statistics in the Asia Pacific  
Bangkok 28-29 August 2014**

**Ministerial Segment  
Agenda Item 6**

*Muhammad*

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellences, distinguished delegates  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It gives me immense pleasure to congratulate Mr. .... of.... on assuming chairmanship of the First Ministerial Conference on CRVS. I am confident that, under your able stewardship, the Conference would successfully complete its proceedings. I assure you full cooperation of my delegation in deliberations of this meeting.

2. I would also like to appreciate UNESCAP Secretariat for their untiring efforts in preparing extensive reports and documents of this Conference.

3. Vital statistics and civil registration system are key to evidence based policy making and provide indispensable information on comprehensive population demographics in all sectors. Well-functioning and effective civil registration statistics mechanisms are strongly required. They impart multiple benefits at the individual and societal levels.

4. The First Ministerial Conference on civil registration and vital statistics provides us a unique opportunity to discuss and improve upon the draft regional framework for developing vital statistics systems. It will also endorse our commitments and future course on CRVS at the regional level. We hope that comments and views of all delegations will be incorporated in the outcomes of this Conference. This will serve as a pioneering instrument to take forward a shared vision on civil registration and vital statistics.

**Mr. Chairman,**

5. Pakistan gives high priority to the national registration process and collection of data at all levels. Vital statistics are crucial for the measurement of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the prospective Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will most likely require higher levels of disaggregation, including detailed cause of death information for tracking progress towards mortality targets.

6. With this background, Pakistan has already initiated work on CRVS through undertaking a detailed situation analysis of CRVS system in the country. An institutional set up has been established in the form of a National Steering and Coordination Committee headed by the Minister of Planning, Development and Reform. The Committee has wide representation from Ministry of Law, Ministry of Interior, National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Provincial Departments of Planning, Health and Local Government, Academia, Civil Society and International Development Partners.

7. Primary aim of the Steering and Coordination Committee is to steer, discuss, develop and implement a national strategic framework, which is aligned with the initiatives taken collectively at the regional level, with political commitment, adequate funding, and a clear delineation of responsibilities for the various stakeholders to establish accountability for its implementation at the national level.

8. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the National Steering and Coordination Committee has been held on 18<sup>th</sup> of this month under the Chair of Minister for Planning, Development and Reform and, as an outcome, thematic areas have been identified which will serve as the basis to the formulation of strategic plan for enhancement and acceleration of CRVS in Pakistan.

**Mr. Chairman,**

9. Pakistan has a long way to tackle the challenges in the area of CRVS. Interalia, these pertain to the legal framework and resources for civil registry, which include:

- Reviewing and deciding amendments in Local Government Act to allow for registration of all persons on the territory irrespective of their sex, religion, status or nationality and for binding health facilities (public/public), LHWs, Marriage Registrars, and Revenue Staff to report to Secretary UC for onwards transmission.
- Provision of IT equipment and internet access and skilled human resources to CRVS registration sites.
- Promoting and developing ownership with provinces, LG, health, education, revenue, population planning and social welfare, and
- To consider a free registration with minimum charges for certification.

10. ICD mortality coding is one area that poses the biggest challenge to Pakistan. CRVS should be brought to a stage where the essential health and demographic indicators including mortality indicators could be calculated through this system. Efforts are required to be made to develop uniform estimates for indicators at various levels.

***Expectations for regional collaboration on CRVS:***

11. Regional collaboration and support in the form of technical assistance, capacity building, application of information and communication technology and exchange of knowledge and best practices in the region is essential and has key role to realize the shared vision of acceleration and enhancement of CRVS in Pakistan.

***National targets for the regional action framework:***

12. The Regional Action Framework sets out certain targets to be achieved during the proposed CRVS decade. In conformity with the Regional Action Framework, Pakistan through its national focal point would, by the end of 2015, submit a baseline report depicting most recent nationally representative baseline data for each target, national target value for each target, and a progress report on CRVS improvement activities.

***Other commitments or ambitions for improving CRVS***

13. Sub-Groups for specific technical work like legislation, inter-agency coordination, sensitization/ CRVS capacity building, amendment in departmental procedures would be formulated. A specific Sub-Group would particularly look at legislative aspect for developing 'one universal CRVS law' for the country in line with Pakistan's international commitment to ensure CRVS opportunities for all persons irrespective of their sex, religion, status or nationality.

14. The Committee will also set national target value for each target set out in the National Strategic Plan/ National Action Framework aligned with the Regional Action Framework in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. In addition, it would assess inequalities among population including among hard-to-reach and marginalized population and particular geographic areas. Pakistan intends to develop ownership of the provincial and special area governments for CRVS through extensive advocacy campaigns.

15. Among already existing systems National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has been delivering as one of the leading organization of civil identity registration. NADRA has now, a state of the art Centralized Data Warehouse, Network Infrastructure and an Interactive Data Acquisition System to issue secure national identity cards. The institution has gained international recognition for its success in providing solutions for identification, e-governance, and secure documentation that deliver multipronged goals and benefits to its clients.

16. For statistical data collection a Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) has also been working since long to collect, compile, analyze and publish the accurate data relating to various sectors of economy and social sector. It also evaluates and introduces standard concepts, definition and classifications pertaining to national statistical series and requirements.

**I thank you all**