

Chair, all distinguished delegates from Asia and Pacific Region, ladies and gentlemen, On behalf of Sri Lanka I like to make the following statement.

In Sri Lanka Vital statistics unit of the Registrar General's Department which was established in 1864 collects and compiles all information related to civil registration and vital statistics. We have established the civil registration system covering all geographical areas including minority and hard to reach population.

As almost all births occur in a hospital setting we have no problem in covering births. But as only 50% of deaths occur in the hospital setting and as there are lay registrars in the field we have a problem in giving a medically certified cause of death. As a result 35% of Cause of Deaths as per WHO classification is given as ill defined cause of death.

Also still births are covered only in proclaimed areas.

Sri Lanka is in the process of making necessary amendments to the births and deaths registration legislation act to cover registration of all still births. Also Sri Lanka is developing guidelines in all operational procedures related to registration of vital events.

Currently, the Ministry of Health is piloting a system which will provide real time reporting of all births occurring in the hospital setting. Registrar General's Department will get linked to this system so there will be immediate reporting of all births.

Also we are conducting awareness programmes to all involved in the registration of vital events in order to improve the completeness of certification.

Sri Lanka has a verbal autopsy form and guidelines already developed. Currently we are revising the documents to make them more user friendly in line with international standards.

Sri Lanka has initiated piloting of an e – population register to issue computer generated birth and death certificates.

We have not decided on targets for all the indicators in the regional action frame work.

Under goal 1, we want 100% achievement in 1A, 1B and 1C indicators. For 1D and 1E we are awaiting the results of the DHS results to set the targets.

Sri Lanka has already achieved 100% in the indicators of legal documentation of births and deaths registration.

Registrar Generals department makes all effort to produce accurate and timely information. But due to managerial issues there is a delay in production of statistics. We hope to reduce ill defined codes to 10% in 2024. Also we hope to determine underlying cause of death code verbal autopsy in 50 % of deaths outside hospitals by 2024. We already produce statistics on births and deaths disaggregated by age, sex, geographical area etc. However, there is a four year time lag. With all the improvements underway, we hope to produce summary tabulations of vital statistics on births and deaths within one calendar year in 2018.

Sri Lanka would welcome contributions from development partners in capacity building, infrastructure development.

We recommend that all countries monitor the country action framework through a multi-stakeholder steering group and the regional steering group will comprise of representatives from country steering groups and monitoring of implementation of regional plan of action must be carried out in a regular fashion.

Thank you