

## INVISIBILITY IN COVID-19 TIMES, MID-TERM AND MID-CRISIS:

*Are we getting everyone in the picture through civil registration?*



Thursday 25 March 2021  
12:15-13:45 (GMT+7)



[Registration here](#)



Member States and associate members of ESCAP came together in 2014 to agree on universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems as critical to achieve inclusive, equitable and people-centered development. Understanding the true impact of COVID-19 on mortality requires reliable data that are not always available in a timely manner in many low-resource settings. Further, while we are far from universal registration of deaths in Asia and the Pacific, we also know that the deaths of some population groups are even less likely to be registered.

Legal identity for all, including birth registration is key to advance the 2030 Agenda commitment to leave no one behind. Legal identity is the basis for realizing many basic rights and opportunities. Furthermore, vital statistics based on civil registration records can be used by governments to measure progress and make evidence-based decisions and deliver services to improve people's lives.

Individuals need legal identity credentials to access healthcare (including vaccinations), education, economic opportunities, and representation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this has been further highlighted with national identification systems providing the backbone for distributing support in 2020 and beyond.

Despite national and universal efforts to “get every one in the picture”, disparities in coverage of hard-to-reach and marginalized populations remain. We are now halfway through the Decade and while significant progress has been made, we are still far from achieving our three goals of universal registration, provision of legal documentation to all and production of vital statistics based on civil registration records.

**Lead Organizer:** Registrar-General,  
Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand

**Co-organizers:** Regional Steering Group on  
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia  
and the Pacific and UNESCAP



REGISTRAR-GENERAL

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



PCR  
Pacific Civil  
Registrars Network



HIGH-LEVEL  
POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

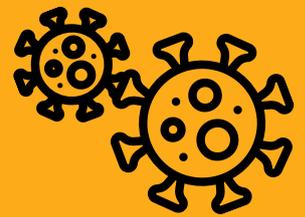


Get  
every one  
in the picture



UNITED NATIONS  
ESCAP  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

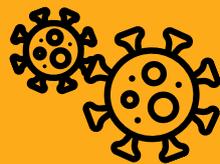
# Highlights



- **Civil registration as foundation for legal identity.** Strengthening civil registration and vital statistics through a holistic approach and integrating civil registration with ID systems can contribute towards ensuring that everyone is counted and that the SDGs deliver a life of dignity for all.



- **Civil registration and vital statistics** is an accelerator for SDG achievement and building back better post COVID-19, legal identity and accurate information on the population are essential for monitoring mortality and service delivery in the response and recovery to crises.



# Speakers



## Moderator

**Mr. Jeff Montgomery**  
Registrar-General and  
General Manager, Services  
and Access Department of  
Internal Affairs New Zealand



## Presenters

**Ms. Kamni Naidu**  
Administrator-General  
Ministry of Justice  
Republic of Fiji



**Mr. Benuel Lenge**  
Director, Department of  
Civil Registry and Vital  
Statistics  
Vanuatu



**Mr. Mohammed Shahidul  
Islam**  
Deputy Secretary  
Cabinet Division  
Bangladesh Secretariat,  
Dhaka



**Ms. Nazaria binti Baharudin**  
Deputy Chief Statistician  
Technical Development and  
Social Office  
Department of Statistics  
Malaysia