

Honorable Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to present the Republic of Nauru Government's statement.

Nauru is an island country in Micronesia, a sub-region of Oceania, in the Central Pacific. With a land area of only 21-square kilometer, Nauru is the smallest state in the South Pacific Ocean.

The recording and registration of births and deaths in Nauru is governed by the Nauruan *Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2017*.

Nauru has one main hospital where most births and deaths in the country occur.

Civil Registration is managed by the Births Deaths and Marriages Office (BDM).

There have been two attempts to digitize registration processes, however, both have not been successful.

Nauru has a CRVS Working Group, formed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019. The group is comprised of the BDM Office, the Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Statistics.

Nauru currently has no National ID System in place; however, a plan and proposal for creating a CRVS database system is a key priority area under the National 2030 Agenda.

Nearly all births and deaths occur in the main hospital where they are recorded.

When a birth occurs, the nursing staff create a registration number and a letter is issued to the parent to present to BDM for registration and the birth payment incentive.

At the BDM Office, a form is completed by family and details of the birth are entered into a Microsoft spreadsheet; the information is then published in the government gazette.

There are two (2) separate birth registration databases maintained, one for citizens and non-citizens.

When a death occurs, a registration number is created. A medical practitioner completes the certificate of cause of death and 2 copies are provided; one for hospital files and one to the BDM Office for registration purposes and the funeral fund incentive.

At the BDM Office, details of the death are entered into the logbook, and a registration number is assigned. A form is then completed by family and a death certificate is manually generated in Microsoft Word spreadsheet; The information is then published in the government gazette.

The same processes apply to Nauruan births and deaths that occur overseas. The only requirement is a presentation of the foreign country's certificate.

Birth and death registration completeness is high in Nauru. This is due to the majority of births and deaths occurring in the hospital, good data sharing between the hospital and BDM, and strong financial incentives, which include a birth payment and a funeral assistance payment – tied to birth and death registration.

Proof of legal identity, in the form of a birth certificate, is required for most events. These include, education enrolment, acquiring a passport, employment, driver's license, and opening a bank account, to name a few.

Name changes due to adoption, marriage, or deed poll are also registered and managed by the BDM Office. These events are published in the government gazette as well.

To conclude, on behalf of the Government of Nauru, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our regional partners who have assisted us in our endeavor to implement the regional action framework and other regional and national CRVS commitments.

Thank you.