

Agenda 5: Towards the shared vision of universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics.

Inclusive and resilient civil registration and vital statistics fit for the future

Ministerial Conference for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

26 June 2025 – Ministerial Segment

ESCAP Hall, UN Conference Center, Bangkok

Background:

As the region looks ahead to the extension of the CRVS decade, resilience and inclusivity must become central pillars of our shared vision that all people in Asia and the Pacific will benefit from universal and responsive CRVS systems that facilitate the realization of their rights and support good governance, health and development. Resilient and inclusive systems are designed to adapt to changing circumstances and ensure continuity of services, even in the face of crises. They are also grounded in the principle of leaving no one behind—ensuring that all individuals, including those in hard-to-reach, fragile, or marginalized contexts, can access civil registration services regardless of their circumstance.

Achieving universal civil registration requires deliberate strategies to reach people in the most fragile contexts: those affected by displacement, those impacted by climate change and natural disasters, those facing barriers to registration, and experiencing systemic inequalities. To achieve this, governments across the region have taken important steps; investing in adaptable infrastructure, adopting inclusive policy frameworks, accelerating digital innovation, and developing linked systems that support the continuous delivery of CRVS services, even in times of crisis.

Despite this progress, many vital events in the region still go unregistered, underscoring the need to sustain and accelerate the progress to achieve our shared vision of universal and responsive CRVS systems. Ensuring that every birth, death, and other key life event is accounted for is essential not only for safeguarding individual rights and generating the data needed to guide effective policy, planning, and service delivery. If the most vulnerable people are left out of CRVS systems they are also likely to find it harder or impossible to access government services, including health and education.

Embedding resilience and inclusivity into the design of CRVS systems is essential to achieving universal legal identity, strengthening data ecosystems, and building a foundation for sustainable and equitable development. This session provides an opportunity for ministers to reflect on national progress, share their vision for future-ready CRVS systems, and discuss how CRVS can be integrated into broader governance and development strategies.