INAUGURAL WORKSHOP
EURASIAN CIVIL REGISTRARS NETWORK
ANKARA, TÜRKIYE | 15-17 APRIL , 2025

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The shaded areas of the map indicate ESCAP members and associate members.*

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region. The Commission promotes cooperation among its 53 member States and 9 associate members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges. ESCAP is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Civil registrars from Eurasian countries gathered for their inaugural meeting on 15-17 April, 2025 in Ankara, Türkiye. The focus of the discussions were to review recent progress in enhancing civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems across Eurasia, exchange knowledge, insights and lessons learned, and to document recent progress towards the goals and targets of the **Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific**, the **2014 Ministerial Declaration** and the **2021 Ministerial Declaration**. Efforts in strengthening CRVS systems and their inclusiveness are a profound statement and commitment to human dignity across the life course.

The meeting noted the potential value of establishing a Eurasian Civil Registrars Network as a regular and continuous platform to facilitate technical exchange and strategic cooperation in advancing progress towards universal legal identity. Participants reviewed the evolution and progress of similar Civil Registrars Networks in other parts of Asia, the Pacific and Latin America and how such networks have strengthened peer-to-peer learning between CRVS professionals at a subregional level.

Progress in CRVS digitalization efforts were shared – each highlighting substantial gains that have advanced the inclusiveness, efficiency and interconnectedness of CRVS systems. Civil registration professionals shared the progress made by countries to digitalize civil registration business processes, often as part of a holistic and integrated e-government initiative to increase access to public services and private opportunities for residents. They also highlighted efforts to digitize historical paper records, in an effort to secure vital records from the past and integrate them with data from ongoing civil registration and legal identity processes.

Participants noted the challenges of attaining universal legal identity across the life course, and recognized the critical importance of conducting civil registration inequality assessments to identify population groups whose vital events are going unregistered and the main socioeconomic, demographic and geographic factors associated with such inequalities. By reviewing recent examples of inequality assessments and analyses in Fiji, Samoa, Ecuador and Georgia, it was noted that multiple factors are often associated with under-registration of vital events (e.g. age, sex, marital status, urban/rural residence, ethnicity etc.). Therefore, it is important that such assessments are designed in a holistic way – using all available data sources – to examine disparities in registration completeness. Further, the use of registration incentives in a number of Central Asian and South Pacific countries were reviewed, such as the integration of birth registration incentives into maternal, newborn and child health packages as well as education support. In the case of death registration, incentives such as the regulation of issuance of burial permits based on the provision of official death certification were also discussed.

Another key theme discussed during the meeting was the resilience of CRVS systems to respond to future crises, such as pandemics or climate-related disasters. Lessons learned and good practices were shared by countries from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as examples of climate crisis preparedness in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).

Civil registrars and CRVS professionals from across the Eurasian region confirmed their strong interest in establishing a Eurasian Civil Registrars Network (ECRN) to facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, advance progress towards universal civil registration as a foundation for legal identity and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals across the region. It was agreed that a small group of civil registrars, CRVS professionals and international development partners would draft a terms of reference for the ECRN. CRVS National Focal Points will then review this document together with national CRVS stakeholders and discuss next steps for establishing the network. A decision will be made on the sidelines of the **Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific** (24 to 26 June 2025) during the subregional forum on CRVS in Central Asia which is being organized on 23 June in Bangkok, Thailand.

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Presentations from the meeting are available here:
https://getinthepicture.org/event/first-meeting-civil-registrars-central-asian-countries-ankara-turkiye

In Asia and the Pacific, approximately 51 million children under the age of five did not have their birth registered in 2024.[2] The absence of a birth certificate – which serves as the foundational document for establishing a legal identity – denies these children an official existence before the law. Throughout the life course, it may also prevent them from accessing essential government and social protection services, such as healthcare and education, as well as leading to potential exclusion from employment markets and participation in governmental processes later on in life. Universal, complete and timely civil registration and vital statistics systems (CRVS) are essential not only for fulfilling Sustainable Development Goals' target 16.9 – which calls for legal identity for all, including birth registration – but also for generating data to monitor progress on over 67 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators across sectors such as health, education, gender equality and social protection.

Each country in Eurasia has an operational civil registration office, reflecting this region's prioritization of civil registration in its domestic policy agenda and the commitment to the realization of the goals and targets of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific. Although each country in the region operates different institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms, there remains a fundamental commitment to achieve universal, accessible, and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems that serve as a foundation for good governance, equitable service delivery and human rights.

While birth and death registration, along with identity management, are a priority for most governments in Central Asia, civil registrars across the region face common challenges in implementing and strengthening these systems. Recent estimates from 2024 suggest that just under 100,000 children under the age of five years remain unregistered in Central Asia.[1,2] Furthermore, the recent report on progress made over the course of the CRVS Decade in Asia and the Pacific (2025) highlights that although significant improvements have been made by countries in North and Central Asia[3] to register the births of children under the age of five, persistent challenges remain around death registration completeness and the quality of cause-of-death recording – both of which have implications for public health and policymaking.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union resulted in a known stateless population, with many individuals left holding outdated or invalid identity documents. In response, several countries have pledged to end known statelessness by providing affected individuals with birth registration or valid identity documents — and these efforts are delivering tangible results. Eurasian states, in particular, have made remarkable progress: in 2024, Turkmenistan became the latest country to resolve all known cases of statelessness within its territory, following Kyrgyzstan's historic achievement in 2019

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1 Use of the term '*Central Asia*' is defined here by UNICEF, for which the estimate refers.

2 United Nations Children's Fund, 'The Right Start in Life: Global levels and trends in birth registration' (New York, 2024).

3 The term '*North and Central Asia*' is used in accordance with the United Nations' geographical classification of the region, for which these findings refer. Please note that the definitions of regions/sub-regions may vary according to the agency for which the estimate was produced.

as the first country globally to eliminate statelessness. Since 2014, over 200,000 cases have been resolved across the subregion. This momentum was reaffirmed through the adoption of the Ashgabat Declaration on Ending Statelessness in Central Asia, in which five Central Asian countries committed to continue working—both individually and collectively—towards eradicating statelessness.

An initial meeting of the Eurasian Civil Registrars Network (ECRN) was organized in Ankara, Türkiye, from 15 to 17 April 2025. Multiple partners supported the event, including ESCAP, UNFPA, SESRIC, Vital Strategies, UNDP, and UNICEF.

The objectives of the meeting were:

1. For civil registrars to share progress and challenges in CRVS improvement efforts and identify common challenges;
2. To facilitate knowledge exchange and potential collaboration on issues of shared concern among civil registrars in the region
3. Build capacity for sustainable institutional development, leading to improved decision-making processes;
4. To document existing practices in the region.

The meeting provided a professional forum for civil registrars to identify areas of common concern among civil registrars (and/or civil registration professionals) in the region, and initiate discussions on a potential terms of references and organizational structure of a Eurasia Civil Registrar Network.

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SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Day 1: 15 April, 2025

Session 1: *Welcome and Introduction*

Mr. Yekta Noyan (Head of Department at the Directorate General for International Economic Policies and Institutions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Türkiye) formally opened the meeting and welcomed participants. Mr. Noyan expressed the Government of Türkiye's support for this meeting of civil registrars and acknowledged the strong relationship between the Government of Türkiye, UNFPA and ESCAP.

Mr. Onur Çağlar (Director of Statistics and Information Department, SESRIC) warmly welcomed the meeting participants to SESRIC on behalf of Ms. Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk (SESRIC Director General). Mr. Çağlar noted that CRVS are integral to social development and the achievement of the SDGs. Although countries in Central Asia have made substantial progress digitalizing their CRVS systems and linking inter-governmental databases, significant challenges remain. SESRIC is committed to assisting OIC countries to strengthen their statistical systems and is confident of the positive outcomes that will arise from this meeting.

Mr. Babatunde Ahonsi (United Nations Resident Coordinator in Türkiye) reaffirmed the enduring commitment of UNFPA and ESCAP to advancing inclusive CRVS systems. While countries in Central Asia have made significant progress in relation to CRVS, challenges remain – particularly in areas such as statelessness, data interoperability and inequalities in access to registration services. Addressing these issues requires coordinated and sustained efforts. A network of registrars has the potential to be a driving force in addressing these complex issues by fostering cross-border cooperation, supporting harmonization efforts and promoting further advances in key areas such as digitalization and data sharing. Mr. Ahonsi noted that the meeting will explore the potential of establishing a permanent subregional platform and the UN in Türkiye is committed to supporting this process.

Speaking on behalf of Ms. Florence Bauer (UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia), Ms. Mariam Khan (UNFPA Country Representative to Türkiye and Country Director for Azerbaijan and Georgia) noted that strengthening CRVS systems is integral to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its central pledge to 'Leave No One Behind'. UNFPA is committed to developing inclusive CRVS systems that work for everyone and are sensitive to the disproportionate challenges that women and girls face in acquiring and exercising their legal identity. Integrating data systems and leveraging CRVS, censuses and administrative data sources are central to this endeavour. The Centre of Excellence on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, based at UNFPA headquarters, serves as a global resource hub. The Centre provides technical assistance, promotes global standards and tools, facilitates knowledge sharing and supports research to strengthen and scale-up sustainable

and inclusive CRVS systems. UNFPA emphasized their commitment to supporting the alignment of civil registration systems with other key population data systems to enable evidence-based policymaking that advances rights and choices for all.

Dr. Chloe Harvey (Associate Statistician, ESCAP) emphasized the strong commitment to CRVS across Central Asia, noting significant regional achievements – particularly in advancing birth registration and reduction of statelessness. In 2024, Turkmenistan became the latest country to resolve all known cases of statelessness within its territory, following the historic milestone set by Kyrgyzstan in 2019, which became the first known country in the world to eliminate statelessness. Since 2014, more than 200,000 cases of statelessness have been resolved across the region. These achievements were further reinforced by the adoption of the 2024 Ashgabat Declaration on Ending Statelessness in Central Asia which reaffirmed the collective commitment to resolving statelessness in the region. Despite these achievements, Dr Harvey emphasized the need to continue efforts to ensure that all births are registered and to address persistent challenges in relation to death registration and the quality of cause-of-death data. It was noted that the establishment of a regional network of civil registrars could provide a valuable platform for ongoing knowledge exchange and the development of joint initiatives to address shared challenges. ESCAP reaffirmed its commitment to supporting this process and encouraged all participants to actively engage in shaping a new network for civil registrars in the region.

Mr. Filippo Caruso (Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP Tajikistan) emphasized that CRVS are not only administrative processes, but also fundamental for upholding human rights. He acknowledged the complexity of achieving accurate and complete birth and death registration, highlighting that the meeting represents an opportunity to lay the foundation for the establishment of a network of civil registrars. This network could help to address these challenges through greater knowledge exchange between civil registrars in neighbouring countries. Mr. Caruso encouraged all meeting participants to actively contribute to defining the purpose of the network, shaping its governance and exploring the potential for sustained regional cooperation.
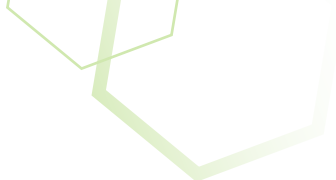
Session 2: *Introduction to the Potential of a Civil Registrars Network.*

This session discussed the benefits of establishing a subregional network of civil registrars in Eurasia.

Civil registrars from participating countries expressed a shared commitment to advancing legal identity coverage and accelerate digital transformation to support efforts towards achieving the SDG 16.9 (i.e. legal identity for all). Common governance challenges and cross-border issues related to CRVS were also noted. It was highlighted that the establishment of a civil registrar network could serve as a collaborative platform for national civil registration authorities to exchange best practices, harmonize standards and build institutional capacity to support CRVS system strengthening.

The **Pacific Civil Registrars Network (PCRN)** was provided as an example of a successful regional civil registrar network. Founded in 2014, the PCRN was designed to address challenges unique to Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). Through peer-to-peer support and regular exchanges, the PCRN has played a key role in strengthening national CRVS system resilience and interoperability, while ensuring that CRVS is integrated into national disaster preparedness planning.

A Eurasian civil registrars network could leverage the shared history and legal traditions of countries in the region and create a platform for cooperation on CRVS-related issues, in addition to the support of relevant development partners. A country-led network of civil registrars could also promote a clear regional CRVS vision, peer learning, joint capacity building, the harmonization of policies and practices, technology transfer and a coordinated crisis response.

The session concluded by noting that a potential Eurasian civil registrars network could strengthen civil registration authorities in the region through coordinated peer-to-peer exchange. It was noted that such a network should be led by national authorities, ideally structured with a rotating chair or presidency, with secretariat support provided by international development partners.

Session 3: *Introduction to Digitalization of CRVS Systems*

The session began with an introduction by UNICEF on the digitalization of CRVS systems, followed by a series of four presentations outlining the specific country experiences of Kazakhstan, Georgia, Mongolia and Uzbekistan.

Mr. BP Panwar (Technologies for Development (T4D) Business Analyst, UNICEF ECARO) emphasized that CRVS systems are foundational for both establishing and retiring legal identity, as vital event records – such as birth and death certificates – serve as key enablers of identity management. In addition to support individual rights, the data generated through CRVS systems is critical for government planning and the delivery of public services. He explained that digitalization is more than just adopting technology – it requires re-engineering processes to improve operational efficiency and user experience. Key design principles for digitalizing CRVS systems include interoperability, privacy by design, scalability, open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), adherence to data standards, robust information security and user-centred design.

Key functional requirements for digital CRVS systems include the comprehensive registration of vital events, secure data storage and back-up mechanisms, disaster mitigation and recovery capabilities, efficient certificate issuance and management, system interoperability, role-based permissions and analysis of vital statistics. A variety of licensing and hosting options exist, and while there is no one-size-fits-all solution, it is essential to make informed decisions about these options early in the design process. Best practices for procurement include developing a comprehensive budget that accounts for the total costs of ownership, based on a thorough needs assessment, ensuring transparent evaluation of proposals, and implementing careful vendor management. Careful consideration of these factors is critical to the successful design and implementation of a digital CRVS system.

The session then reviewed digitalization efforts in Kazakhstan, Georgia, Mongolia and Uzbekistan via presentations from Ms. Venera Kalimova (Ministry of Justice, Kazakhstan), Mr. Irakli Chedlidze (Ministry of Justice, Georgia), Mr. Tuguldur Tuul (General Authority for State Registration, Mongolia), Mr. Anvarjon Tursunaliyev and Mr. Kabirakhon Talapova (Ministry of Justice, Uzbekistan).

Key observations about CRVS digitalization included:

- Impressive comprehensive digital transformation has been implemented in all four countries:
  - All countries have digitalized their civil registration systems and transitioned from paper-based to electronic record management systems.
  - Whilst the approaches may vary, there has been a common effort to digitalize future vital events – such as births, marriages and divorces – as well as historical records (including paper-based records for those born prior to digitalization).

- Centralized electronic civil registry systems have been created in all countries and integrated to support public service delivery as part of broader e-government initiatives:
  - Kazakhstan: Civil Registration Information System (CRIS).
  - Georgia: Electronic civil registry maintained by Public Service Development Agency.
  - Mongolia: Integrated national civil registration network.
  - Uzbekistan: Unified Electronic Civil Registration Archive information system.

- Significant data integration with healthcare institutions has been achieved, including:
  - Direct coordination between medical facilities and civil registration offices.
  - Birth and death notifications received from hospitals/healthcare facilities.
  - Electronic transfer of vital event data from birth and death notifications from health institutions to registration authorities.

- Unique Personal Identification Numbers are issued to citizens in all four countries:
  - Implementation and design choices often leverage the management of a legal identity across the life course.
  - Georgia: retirement of Personal Identification Number following death.

- Commitment to human-centered design is evident in the diverse access points for civil registration services adopted by some countries:
  - Kazakhstan: e-Government portal, mobile apps, public service centres and civil registry offices.
  - Mongolia: 459 service units across the country, e-Mongolia online portal.

- Successful streamlining of administrative processes is demonstrated by the use of automated service triggers in some countries:
  - Kazakhstan: Automatic processing of childbirth and childcare benefits after birth registration.
  - Uzbekistan: Birth and death registration triggers access to a wide range of supportive services and financial benefits.

- Important savings resulted from the switch from paper-based records to electronic certificates and documentation in some countries:
  - Kazakhstan: paper certificates for vital events were eliminated in 2022 and have been replaced with electronic certificates of equal legal effect.
  - Georgia: issuing electronic certificates since 2021.
  - Uzbekistan: QR-coded birth and death certificates are issued free of change and are of equal legal effect to paper certificates. Paper-based statistical reporting has been eliminated and replaced with electronic publications.

Session 4: World Café: CRVS Thematic Issues across Eurasia

This session followed a World Café format to facilitate discussion on a series of thematic CRVS issues across the Eurasia region. Participants rotated between six tables, each focused on a specific topic. A brief summary of the key points from each table discussion is provided below.

Table 1: ICT costing and funding

Mr. BP Panwar, T4D Business Analyst, UNICEF ECARO.

Assessment and planning are essential. A good practice is to consider total ownership costs and split the budget into discrete themes (e.g. software, hardware, cybersecurity). The Ministry of Justice is often the owner of the CRVS system in Eurasian countries. A good practice is to have a separate agency responsible for digitalization. Funding is usually provided by the state, with Overseas Development Assistance, South-South and triangular cooperation serving as potential secondary sources of support. Fees may also be considered as an option, but should be carefully considered. A recommended good practice is to ensure that birth and death registration services remain free of charge.

Table 2: Unique identifiers and links with national ID and other government sectors

Dr. Romesh Silva, Senior Technical Specialist, Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems, UNFPA.

Random and structured approaches to generating unique Personal Identification Numbers (PIN); each have their own advantages and disadvantages. Harmonizing the ID digit structure across the region would make it easier to track individuals across borders. Whilst harmonization is technically complex, existing experiences in West/Central Africa suggest the key interoperability challenges are more about political coordination than technical interoperability. Data protection frameworks are important and can shape how a PIN is used (e.g. Several Latin American countries use a PIN to link census and CRVS data at the unit-record level. Data protection frameworks prevent this in other countries). Biometric data collection methods can be useful but have limitations, particularly in relation to inclusiveness of more vulnerable communities (e.g. farmers in India).

Table 3: Mapping existing business processes as an input into digitalization efforts

Dr. Chloe Harvey, Associate Statistician, ESCAP.

Business process mapping involves visualizing and documenting the steps and tasks involved in CRVS administrative processes. It is important to note that manual processes do not always align with the updated digitalized processes. When conducted on an ongoing basis, business process mapping can help identify inefficiencies and enhance system performance. While some countries in the region have applied this approach, formal business process mapping remains limited. In many cases, digitalization is often guided by alternative mechanisms, such as the establishment of a national coordinating body responsible for digitization efforts, with key decisions often made at higher levels. Some existing business process maps have been developed to improve interoperability between ministries, but do not necessarily focus on strengthening the CRVS system itself.

Table 4: Online registration

Mr. Filippo Caruso, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP Tajikistan.

A variety of approaches are being used in the region. Some countries have introduced comprehensive online registration systems accessible through online portals and mobile applications, while others are in the process of establishing or expanding such services. Online registration offers notable benefits, including time and cost savings. Integrating CRVS systems with other government databases – such as health information systems for birth registration – can significantly broaden the scope and efficiency of services provided. Robust legal frameworks are also essential to support digital registration. However, effectively communicating online procedures remains a challenge, especially promoting awareness among non-citizens.

Table 5: Digitalization of existing records

Ms. Tanja Sejersen, Statistician, ESCAP.

All countries in the region have completed the digitalization of their existing historical paper records (e.g. all records from 1904 onwards have been digitalized in Türkiye). In most countries, this process was completed 15-20 years ago. Typically, paper-based records were scanned and manually verified to ensure accuracy. Notably, most countries in the region have gone beyond basic digitization, achieving full digitalization by integrating records into functioning electronic systems. In some countries, individuals have a right to access and review their own data and report any errors.

Table 6: Links with the health sector and notifications, etc.

Mr. Romain Santon, Deputy Director–Asia, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, Vital Strategies.

The linkages between the health sector and civil registration processes are relatively well established in most countries. However, building these relationships and fostering trust between data-sharing institutions often requires time and sustained effort. In some countries, engaging private sector medical facilities in the reporting of vital events has proven particularly challenging. Legal reform (e.g. mandating the reporting of vital events by health facilities), is a critical component of strengthening these connections. In some countries, introducing penalties for non-compliance has led to notable improvements, for example, Georgia has observed enhanced birth registration rates following the enforcement of timely reporting requirements for health facilities.

Day 2: 16 April, 2025

Session 5: *Introduction to the Purpose of Subregional Networks*

The session opened with a brief introduction to the purpose and value of subregional civil registrar networks, followed by two presentations highlighting the experiences of existing networks covering **Latin America and the Caribbean (CLARCIEV)**, and **South Asia (CR8 network)**.

Ms. Tanja Sejersen (ESCAP) recalled that the concept of establishing subregional networks was first proposed at the **First Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific** in 2014. Since then, ESCAP has supported the supported the establishment of civil registrar networks throughout Asia and the Pacific. Central Asia, however, remains the only subregion without an established network. The establishment of a civil registrars offers multiple benefits. Civil registrars often operate in isolation within national systems and are frequently disconnected from their counterparts in neighbouring countries. A network can help address this gap by fostering peer-to-peer exchange, building a shared vision and increasing access to technical and financial resources. In most cases, these networks have also served as an effective platform for engaging with development partners and coordinating regional CRVS strengthening efforts.

Existing civil registrar networks (e.g. PCRN, CR8, South-East Asian Civil Registrar Network, CLARCIEV) undertake a variety of different activities including coordination, peer learning facilitated or convened by partners, quarterly meetings to share best practices and ad-hoc bilateral engagements. Networks can also highlight demand for specific knowledge products within the subregion. For example, a need for disaster response planning support, especially advice on record retention procedures, was first identified by registrars as a shared priority during meetings of the subregional Pacific Civil Registrar Network.
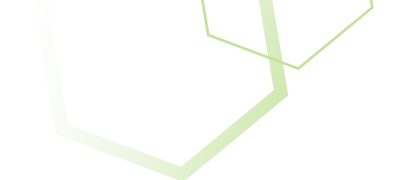
It was noted that when planning a subregional network it is important to keep the following key questions in mind:

- What skills could we gain from a network?
- Who would be relevant members?
- Are there existing regional initiatives we can link up with?
- What activities would actually be useful?
- Who could function as a secretariat?

Mr. Juan Minetto (Project Manager, Organización de los Estados Americanos, OEA) gave an overview of CLARCIEV (Latin American and Caribbean Council of Civil Registration, Identity and Vital Statistics) – a subregional network, established in 2005 – bringing together civil registration institutions from Latin America and the Caribbean. The network provides a platform for sharing experiences and it also enables members to support one another in strengthening their civil registration systems.

Network activities include annual meetings, bimonthly executive committee meetings, technical working group activities, technical exchanges, and various coordinated joint initiatives. Six technical working groups have been established for 2025-2027, focusing on areas such as regional vital indicators, artificial intelligence, registrar training, fraud prevention, identification documents, and legal recognition of migrant registries.

The network receives secretariat support from the Organization of American States (OAS), with additional technical and financial support from UNHCR and IADB for annual meetings. Various international organizations and NGOs participate in annual meetings, including the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP,

and MOSIP. CLARCIEV also organizes a technology fair, which runs in parallel to the annual meeting and is one of the main sources of funding for the annual meeting.

Overall, CLARCIEV is a solutions-focused network, driven by the priorities of the constituent country members. The network promotes a regional vision and encourages horizontal cooperation between members. The presidency is important in orientating the network and setting the tone and the CLARCIEV executive secretariat ensures continuity and facilitates the chosen activities.

Mr. Md. Zahid Hossain (Registrar General, Government of Bangladesh) provided an overview of the network of Civil Registration Professionals of South Asia (CR8). It was established in 2018 to share lessons learned and collaborate on common, cross-border issues. The network is supported by UNICEF and ESCAP, and includes members from eight countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. CR8 is an informal network: membership is open to civil registration professionals who are in an organizational position (public, NGO, academic, development partner, etc.) and are working specifically on civil registration in South Asia. This includes civil registrars with state- or country-level responsibility for civil registration.

The CR8 network convenes through a combination of virtual and in-person meetings, with a focus on three common areas of concern: strengthening national coordination mechanisms, enhancing cross-border collaboration and improving the integration between civil registration and identity management systems. The most recent quarterly meeting was held virtually in November 2024 and provided a platform for sharing updates on key areas of work and discussing preparations in the lead-up to the Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. Discussions included country experiences related to inequality assessments, the removal of fees for birth registration and strategies for CRVS advocacy.

In summary the session noted that the:
- Structure and membership of subregional civil registrar networks varies.
  - CLARCIEV is highly structured (Chair, Executive Committee, General Assembly, technical working groups etc.) and attendance at annual meetings is restricted to directors and senior officials from civil registration authorities.
  - CR8 is a more informal network of professionals working on civil registration.
- Network activities can include annual in-person meetings, regular virtual meetings, technical working group activities, technical exchanges and coordinated joint initiatives.
- A mixture of different types of funding is utilised to support the networks.
  - CLARCIEV is funded partly by a technology fair run in parallel to the annual general meeting.
- The two networks draw on international partners for secretariat support. This facilitates but does not drive network activities.
- CLARCIEV has thrived by developing a clear regional vision and remaining driven by the priorities of the country members.
  - The presidency of CLARCIEV has been particularly important in setting the direction and content of network activities.

Session 6: *Overview of Assessing and Addressing Inequalities in CRVS Systems*

The session opened with an overview of approaches to assessing and addressing inequalities. This was followed by a presentation on the achievements and future plans for CRVS in the Kyrgyz Republic, and a presentation on extending registration completeness and coverage in Tajikistan.

Dr. Chloe Harvey (ESCAP) emphasized that the Asia-Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade 2015-2024 aims to establish universal and responsive CRVS systems, which facilitate the realization of individual rights, support good governance and health and development across the region. Inclusivity, along with resilience, have been prioritized as two key themes for the Third Ministerial Conference in June 2025 and the proposed Decade extension to 2030. She noted that economic incentives can positively influence birth registration completeness among specific population groups, while registration and certificate fees can act as deterrents. Conducting inequality assessments to examine disparities in civil registration completeness can be a powerful tool for highlighting gaps and mobilizing evidence-based policy action.

Dariia Raiymkulova (CRVS Expert, the Kyrgyz Republic) provided an overview of Kyrgyzstan's progress in assessing and addressing inequalities in CRVS. She noted that the State Registration Service (SRS) is the main authority responsible for civil registration in Kyrgyzstan, governed by a comprehensive legal framework that includes national legislation (e.g Family Code, Civil Code and Law on Acts of Civil Status) as well as international conventions. The SRS oversees the registration of vital events, the assignment of Personal Identification Numbers, the issuance of passports and identity cards, the establishment of citizenship and the processing of applications for birth-related benefits.

Since 2015 the civil registration system in the Kyrgyz Republic has been fully automated: all vital events are registered through an electronic system, which also issues digital legal identity documents which have equal legal standing to their paper-based counterparts. Data collected during the civil registration process is automatically shared with other statistical entities via the 'Tunduk' interdepartmental data exchange network. Tunduk currently facilitates automated information exchange between 87 government ministries and agencies, and also shares relevant data with 250 commercial entities. This digital transformation of civil registration processes has simplified the procedures for registering vital events and improved accessibility. For example, birth registration now requires fewer documents and parents can now apply online and receive birth certificates delivered directly to their homes. These improvements have made it easier to register children whose parents lack documentation. Additionally, a joint business process developed by three government agencies has been implemented to identify undocumented children. Between May 2024 and January 2025, the initiative identified more than 1,443 undocumented children, of whom more than 1,189 have since received a birth certificate.

Future plans for the CRVS system in the Kyrgyz Republic include the rollout of a streamlined 'super service' that will enable online birth registration and maternity benefit applications to be processed within just 3-5 minutes. Additional initiatives under development include online applications for marriage and divorce, automatic death registration and the automatic assignment of a Personal Identification Number at birth.

Ms. Gulchehra Rahmon (Ministry of Justice, Tajikistan) provided an overview of Tajikistan's efforts to improve the completeness and coverage of civil registration. She explained that the Civil Registration Department within the Ministry of Justice is the primary authority responsible for managing civil registration processes. Tajikistan's CRVS system is guided by a comprehensive legal framework that includes key legislation and government strategies such as the Law on State Registration

of Acts of Civil Status and the National Strategy on Civil Registration Reform. A major milestone was achieved in 2016 when the country transitioned from a paper-based system to an electronic system known as Civil Registration Offices Information System (CROIS2).

Tajikistan is employing innovative approaches to address service gaps and improve civil registration coverage. One such initiative is the mobile 'ZAGS' service, which deploys four equipped vans with trained personnel to provide registration services in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Between June and November 2024, the mobile registration units issued 808 certificates, 83% of which were birth certificates. In addition, targeted SMS campaigns have been launched to raise awareness about the importance of birth registration in areas with low coverage. These campaigns have reached over 1.45 million citizens to date.

Household interviews focused on civil registration reform were conducted in 2016 and again in 2024. The findings indicate significant progress, with birth registration rates for children under five increasing from 91% to 98% and overall public satisfaction with civil registration services rising from 45% to 85%. Despite this progress, notable challenges remain. Access gaps persist in remote and mountainous regions (especially in the Gorno-Badakhshan). In addition, rural civil registration offices continue to face technical difficulties, including unstable internet connections, frequent power outages and limited availability of technical support.
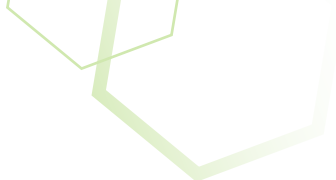
Going forward, Tajikistan plans to prioritize the upgrading of its existing electronic civil registration system, strengthen integration with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population and improve partnership with the Agency for Innovation and Digital Technologies. Mr. Faridun Sharifi provided an overview of the ongoing IT system upgrade and presented the integration scheme that is being used to link the databases of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Interior with the support of service suppliers from Moldova. Participants were also shown the user interfaces currently being used by civil registrars in Tajikistan to record birth and death registrations.

To conclude the session, the following next steps were agreed on as follow-up actions to advance CRVS inequality assessments: (i) ESCAP and UNFPA will provide technical support for conducting **quantitative** and **qualitative** inequality assessments, including providing **guidelines** for estimating the completeness of civil registration; (ii) Delegations to review the various resources and tools on inequality assessments available on the ESCAP Get in the Picture **portal**; and (iii) Given the interest expressed by a number of delegations in undertaking such an assessment, it was recommended that country delegations reach out to ESCAP and UNFPA to identify next steps for designing and implementing national inequality assessments.

Session 7: *Site Visit to Türkiye CRVS Agency*

The Government of Türkiye hosted participants on a half-day site visit to the headquarters of the General Directorate of Civil Registration and Citizenship, Ministry of Interior, Türkiye. The visit featured interactive presentations and discussions on: (i) the modernization of Türkiye's civil registration system; (ii) the digitization of historical paper records to enhance data interoperability and service delivery; and (iii) the development and maintenance of the country's spatial address register system.

Civil registration services in Türkiye are administered through Provincial Directorates of Civil Registration and Citizenship in 81 provincial centres and 973 civil registration directorates operating in their respective districts. The foundation of Türkiye's civil registration system dates back to the first

'General Population Register' conducted in 1905. The initial civil registers were compiled using the records collected through this nationwide enumeration, establishing the population register which serves as the basis for the country's civil registration system.

In October, 2000, the General Directorate of Civil Registration and Citizenship completed the task of assigning a unique personal identification number (TR Identity Number) to all individuals – both living and deceased – recorded in the civil registers. These unique identifiers now serve as the basis for aligning and ensuring interoperability across vital event registration systems throughout the life course. It also supports the effective management of administrative records related to migration and enables accurate linkage across various government-maintained administrative registers.

The TR Identification Number aims to:
- Enable each citizen to access services and information related to civil registration, taxation, health, military service and social security through a single number thereby eliminating issues arising from similarities in individuals' names;
- Prevent identity fraud through rapid and reliable verification; and
- Facilitate inter-agency integration by enabling the seamless exchange and consolidation of information between different government institutions.

The Identity Sharing System (KPS) was established to enable public institutions and other legal entities to access personal and address data stored in the central database of the General Directorate of Civil Registration and Citizenship. The system provides real-time, secure and up-to-date access on a 24/7 basis. Through KPS, the Directorate currently supports data sharing with 2,160 institutions, including banks, municipalities, line ministries, financial institutions, public benefit associations, private hospitals, utility providers, insurance and pension companies.

A total of 52 services are offered through the e-Government portal (**www.turkiye.gov.tr**), enabling citizens and institutions to obtain required documents remotely, without the need to visit civil registry offices in-person. The platform also allows institutions to verify documents electronically. Since the introduction of e-Government services in 2017, more than 804 million transactions have been completed.

In Türkiye, the Spatial Address Registration system (AKS) facilitates the standardisation of addresses, ensuring that addresses remain up-to-date in the National Address Database and that they match the corresponding contact details which facilitates secure data sharing of address information with institutions authorised by law. The National Address Database serves as the central repository for all officially defined address components. Initially compiled through field data collection coordinated by TurkStat, the database was transferred to the General Directorate in 2007. It currently contains data on 17,560,150 structures across 51,458,677 individual spaces.

The site visit highlighted the strong commitment of Turkish authorities to preserve the history of its resident population through the digitization of historical records. Participants were also informed about recent advancements to modernize the civil registration system, including efforts to integrate identity management data with both public and private service delivery. These developments have been pursued with careful consideration for the need to balance accessibility with privacy, data protection and legal safeguards.

Session 8: *2025 Review of the Asia Pacific CRVS Decade and the Third Ministerial Conference of CRVS in Asia and the Pacific*

The session provided an overview of the content and structure of the upcoming Third Ministerial Conference of CRVS in Asia and the Pacific and discussed the key results of the 2025 review of the CRVS Decade.

Scheduled to take place from 24 to 26 June 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand, the Third Ministerial Conference will serve as a pivotal moment to review progress made over the course of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024). The conference will also highlight remaining challenges and priority areas for action to fully achieve the goals and targets outlined in the 2014 Ministerial Declaration, as well as the Regional Action Framework and the 2021 Ministerial Declaration.

The conference is expected to culminate in the adoption of a 2025 Ministerial Declaration, which will formally extend the CRVS Decade to 2030. The Declaration will outline key priority actions and reinforce high-level commitment to ensure inclusive and resilient CRVS systems that serve as a foundation for legal identity for all. The conference will convene ministers and senior officials responsible for civil registration, planning, justice, health, statistics, finance, national ID systems and digital transformation.

Preparations are being led by the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, with support from ESCAP and the co-organizing development partners. A comprehensive progress report reviewing achievements during the CRVS Decade will be launched one month prior to the event. In addition, consultations with children, youth and civil society have been underway and their perspectives will be formally presented during the Ministerial Conference.

The questionnaire for the 2025 review of the CRVS Decade has already been circulated to members and associate members. Preliminary findings suggest that there has been substantial progress across a number of key indicators. Notably, the number of unregistered children under the age of five had decreased significantly – from 135 million in 2012 to 51 million in 2024. The North and Central Asian region, in particular, has demonstrated consistent progress across multiple areas.

However, challenges remain for many countries in the Asia and Pacific region. Disparities in registration completeness persist, particularly among hard-to-reach and populations in vulnerable situations. In many cases, these gaps in registration are not being adequately analysed or addressed. More than 8 million deaths still go unregistered annually, and less than one-third of deaths have medically certified causes, leaving knowledge gaps that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable.

Despite these challenges, the Decade has been marked by strengthened political commitment and the mobilization of resources. It is clear that the region has made clear and measurable progress, laying the groundwork for more inclusive, resilient and comprehensive CRVS systems.

Session 9: *Addressing CRVS Inequalities Through the Life Course and Advancing Resilient Systems*

The session featured a presentation by Dr. Romesh Silva (UNFPA) on the importance of adopting a life course approach to assessing inequalities in civil registration and on recent efforts to enhance CRVS system resilience. He emphasized that a holistic, life course approach extends beyond

birth and death registration to include key life transitions such as marriage and divorce registration, as well as broader identity management systems. He underscored that systematically analysing inequalities in registration helps identify the weakest points in CRVS systems and can inform critical health and social policy decisions.

Dr. Silva shared insights from analysis of digitized birth registration data in Thailand and the Republic of Georgia, which were used to identify where the incidence adolescent of childbearing and prenatal sex selection were most pronounced, respectively. He also highlighted how an increasing number of countries are leveraging data from their decennial census to assess inequalities in marriage registration completeness, with findings being used to guide targeted interventions. Finally, he emphasized the value of multidimensional inequality assessments that examine intersections of sex, geography, age and other factors. For instance, a subnational assessment in Ecuador revealed that female death registration completeness lagged behind that of males in nearly every district, limiting the reliability of mortality data and creating inequities in evidence-based planning.

In light of the increasing risks from conflict, pandemics and climate-related shocks, Dr. Silva concluded by highlighting the need to build resilient CRVS systems capable of maintaining continuity during times of crisis. The UNFPA Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems has compiled a **compendium of good practices for CRVS Systems in conflict, emergencies and fragile settings**.

Building on the introductory presentation, the session adopted a World Café format to facilitate in-depth discussion on six key topics related to the assessment of CRVS inequalities and the advancement of resilient systems. A brief summary of the key points raised in each of these discussions is provided below.

Table 1: Quantitative and qualitative assessments and identifying groups left behind, statistical capacity

Dr. Chloe Harvey, Associate Statistician, ESCAP.
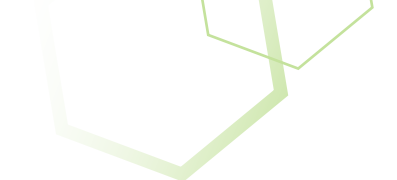
The discussion emphasized the importance of integrating regular data cleaning and quality checks into ongoing data quality management processes. A key issue raised was the need to reconcile discrepancies between data reported by the Ministry of Health and the CRVS systems. It was noted that pilot surveys including questions on deaths in the household can sometimes reduce the response rate (due to context-specific sensitivities), limiting the feasibility of integrating such questions into national censuses. The challenges of recording stillbirths were also acknowledged, particularly the need to ensure that only live births are included in the denominator when estimating completeness rates. Registering vital events occurring in private health facilities or at home also remains complex. One good practice highlighted by some countries was the use of community nurses to monitor households and track households where pregnant women reside so that any birth occurring outside of the formal health system can be recorded.

Table 2: Building resilient CRVS systems

Ms. Tanja Sejersen, Statistician, ESCAP.

Strengthening is crucial for building more resilient societies. Developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and business continuity plans is essential for ensuring the continuity of registration services during disasters and emergencies. Several countries noted that online registration systems played a

critical role in maintaining service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic. Empowering citizens to access and verify their own data was also highlighted as a means of enhancing system resilience. Country representatives with population registers shared examples of how change-of-address processes are managed and how integration between different registers can support continuity and adaptability. At the same time, participants recognized that ensuring robust data protection and preventing cyberattacks remains a complex and increasingly urgent challenge.

Table 3: Outreach/working with marginalized communities

Ms. Ainur Kanafina, Regional Programme Specialist in Population and Development, UNFPA.

Reaching populations in remote or hard-to-reach areas remains a challenge in some countries. Additionally, social and cultural norms in certain contexts may restrict women's mobility, making it difficult for them to access government services, particularly when unaccompanied by a husband or male guardian. Specialized mobile registration services have proven effective in addressing these issues and increasing registration coverage. Participants also highlighted the unique challenges associated with registering refugees and Roma communities, who may be reluctant to engage with authorities due to concerns around discrimination, documentation or legal status.

Table 4: Addressing specific groups (gender, disabilities, foundlings)

Dr. Romesh Silva, Senior Technical Specialist, Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems, UNFPA.

Countries shared their experiences in engaging hard-to-reach populations in both censuses and civil registration processes. A range of strategies were discussed, including information campaigns, enforcement measures (such as fines for late/delayed registration) and positive incentives (such as cash benefits). Participants emphasized the importance of delivering awareness campaigns In local languages and noted that outreach is sometimes more effective when led by respected local leaders, such as religious or community representatives. The discussion highlighted successful examples of incentive-based approaches, including the use of a US$ 500 mother-child grant in South Africa to promote registration. Participants reflected on the potential for such incentives to be more cost-effective and impactful in the long term compared to conventional outreach methods.

Table 5: Collaboration with NGOs and civil society

Mr. Filippo Caruso, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP Tajikistan.

In all countries, the government remains the principal provider of civil registration services. However, the outsourcing of specific supplementary or non-routine activities was reported by some participants. For example, some countries have engaged NGOs or civil society organizations to raise awareness on specific registration-related topics or to support individuals in obtaining the required documentation for registration applications. In some cases, these organizations have also played a direct role in reaching marginalized or hard-to-reach populations, such as visiting persons with disabilities or conducting door-to-door outreach to identify individuals who are not registered.

Table 6: Creating incentives for registration and engaging policy makers for implementation

Ms. Marine Yaylakanyan, Head of the Civil Status Acts Registration Agency, Armenia.

The group focused on the various types of incentives used to encourage civil registration. Financial incentives were recognized as being effective at boosting registration rates. For example, many countries in the region provide lump-sum payments upon birth registration, with the amount often increasing with birth order. Financial incentives to report deaths were also discussed, such as lump-sum payments issued upon registration to support burial costs. In contrast, some countries employ penalties, including fines for failing to register a birth within the required timeframe. Participants noted that beyond financial measures, improving accessibility and simplifying procedures – particularly through online portals that accept applications with e-signatures – can significantly enhance registration rates. Additionally, in some contexts, access to essential services such as preschool or kindergarten enrollment is conditional on registration, creating a strong incentive for families to ensure timely registration.

Session 10: Discussion on the Set-Up of Subregional CRVS Network

This session adopted a World Café format to facilitate discussion on the establishment of a subregional civil registrars network. Participants rotated between four thematic tables, each focusing on: (i) potential priority topics; (ii) membership composition; (iii) types of activities; and (iv) organizational structure and working modalities.

Participants recommended that the ECRN prioritize the following thematic areas, reflecting shared priorities for countries across Eurasia:

- **Cybersecurity and data protection**, including measures to prevent data leakage;
- **Validation of personal data and registration of life events**;
- **Experience sharing**, with a focus on common challenges and good practices;
- **Development of legal instruments** to support and harmonize CRVS processes;
- **Cross-border collaboration** (e.g. long-term data sharing strategies, mutual recognition of Personal Identification Numbers and methodological alignment for registering marginalized groups);
- **Harmonization, cross-validation and quality assessment** of civil registration data.

All participating countries expressed a strong interest in joining the ECRN. It was noted that the Russian Federation had also been invited to the meeting, but a response was not received. Participants discussed the scope of potential membership, considering whether it should be limited to civil registration professionals – as is the case in many existing networks – or broadened to include all ministries and agencies involved in CRVS processes.

Participants recommended the following activities to be prioritized by the ECRN:

- Capacity building on CRVS technical topics:
  - Training on ANACoD3 software for analysis of mortality and cause-of-death data.

- Development of thematic working groups, led by volunteer members, to focus on key areas such as:
  - Shared methodological challenges (e.g. transition from ICD-10 to ICD-11);
  - Mobile applications and use of open-source software in CRVS systems;
  - Knowledge transfer (e.g. best practices, lessons learned);
  - Cross-border issues, such as the registration of citizens from neighbouring countries and longer-term strategies for data sharing and interoperability.

The following elements concerning organizational structure and working modalities were discussed:

- A technical secretariat would be needed to coordinate the network's activities:
  - ESCAP volunteered to serve as the secretariat until 2027.
- The importance of linking up with other civil registrar regional networks (e.g. PCRN, CR8, CLARICEV, etc.) to share experiences.
- A mixture of online and in-person meetings preferred:
  - Support for in-person meetings every 1-2 years (subject to funding availability);
  - A host country for the 2026 in-person meeting would need to be identified;
  - Online meetings and webinars should be held more frequently to maintain momentum and facilitate regular engagement.
- The network should operate in both Russian and English as its primary working languages:
  - ESCAP noted it would require support for translation services.
- To ensure inclusivity, the name of the network should reflect all member countries participating in the network, hence, the name Eurasian Civil Registrars Network (ECRN) was proposed and endorsed.
- The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the ECRN will be jointly drafted by two countries, with technical support from ESCAP and UNFPA from May to June 2025. The draft will be reviewed at the subregional CRVS forum for North and Central Asia, scheduled to take place on 23 June 2025 in Bangkok.

Session 11: *Decisions on the Key Recommendations from the Meeting*
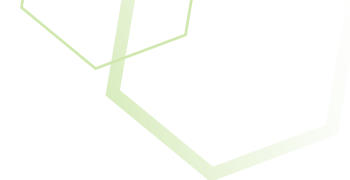
Participants at the inaugural meeting of Eurasian Civil Registrars expressed strong support for the establishment of a subregional network of civil registrars. They noted the value of the meeting's rich exchange of lessons learned and the sharing of strategic and technical insights. Participants also acknowledged the significant progress achieved in CRVS strengthening and identity management through similar subregional networks in the Pacific (PCRN), South Asia (CR8), Southeast Asia, and Latin America (CLARCIEV).

Participants confirmed an interest in developing a CRVS subregional network for Eurasian countries to explore the following priority issues: (i) the systematic analysis of inclusiveness of CRVS and ID management systems; (ii) review and stock-taking of CRVS/ID digitalization efforts and data integration across government service provision functions; and (iii) approaches to utilizing CRVS and ID data to inform evidence-based policymaking programme design across the life course.

National delegations also expressed interest in engaging with established subregional networks, to exchange lessons learned and technical insights on topics of mutual interest.

Session 12: *Closing Remarks, Wrap-Up and Next Steps*

Mr. Onur Çağlar (Director of Statistics and Information Department, SESRIC) expressed thanks to all organizations and participants for their active and meaningful engagement throughout the meeting. He extended special thanks to the technical teams working behind the scenes, whose efforts were instrumental in ensuring the smooth delivery of the event. In closing, Mr. Çağlar wished all participants a safe journey home and expressed his hope that the partnerships made during the meeting would continue to grow and flourish in the coming years.

Dr. Romesh Silva (Senior Technical Specialist, Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems, UNFPA) expressed his appreciation for the active participation and rich exchange of knowledge and insights throughout the meeting. He emphasized that UNFPA is honoured to support this collaborative effort and looks forward to continued engagement in strengthening the network. Dr. Silva concluded by noting his anticipation of seeing participants at the subregional forum for North and Central Asia at the upcoming Ministerial Conference in Bangkok, where some of the key progress areas for the region and outcomes from this meeting will be discussed.

Mr. Filippo Caruso (Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP Tajikistan) reflected on the value of learning about the diverse institutional frameworks that exist across Central Asia and Türkiye. While there is no single 'best' model, he noted that it was particularly insightful to observe how different countries have adopted varied approaches to address the similar challenges. He acknowledged UNDP's support in facilitating the participation of the delegation from Tajikistan and expressed hope that future meetings of the regional network will provide a platform to showcase the country's progress and new initiatives. Mr. Caruso concluded by expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to join the delegation in Ankara, noting it was a rewarding experience and hoping it proved equally beneficial for all involved.

Ms. Tanja Sejersen (Statistician, ESCAP) expressed her sincere thanks to all participants for generously sharing their experiences and for their active and thoughtful engagement throughout the workshop sessions. Ms. Sejersen also extended her appreciation to colleagues from SESRIC, UNFPA, Vital Strategies and UNICEF for their strong support and valuable contributions to the meeting. Ms. Sejersen noted that the idea of establishing a subregional civil registrar network for North and Central Asia was first proposed in 2014, and it is a significant milestone to have finally brought participants together in Ankara to take this vision forward. She concluded by expressing her hope that this marks the beginning of deeper collaboration and continued joint activities across the subregion.

Participants agreed on the following next steps:

- **National consultations**: Each delegation to engage with relevant line ministries to explore how the proposed network can be designed to best serve the civil registration authority and all ministries involved in national CRVS-related activities.
- **Drafting of Terms of Reference (ToR)**: A working group, comprising of two member States, UNFPA and ESCAP will collaborate to develop a draft ToR for the proposed network of civil registrars.
- **Presentation at subregional forum during the Ministerial Conference:** The working group will consolidate its inputs and present the draft Terms of Reference for review and discussion during the Monday session (23 June) of the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Bangkok from 24 to 26 June 2025.

4

APPENDIX I: WORKSHOP AGENDA

MEETING OF CENTRAL ASIAN CIVIL REGISTRARS

SESRIC Headquarters
Ankara, Republic of Türkiye, 15-17 April 2025

TIME		AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKER
DAY 1			
09:00	09.15	Participant Registration	
09:15	09:55	Welcome and Introduction	Session moderated by **Dr. Romesh Silva**, Technical Specialist, UNFPA
			– **Mr. Yekta Noyan**, Head of Department at the Director General for International Economic Policies and Institutions in MoFA, Türkiye
			– **Ms. Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk**, Director General for SESRIC
			– **Dr. Babatun de A. Ahonsi**, Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Türkiye
			– **Ms. Mariam Khan**, UNFPA
			– **Dr. Chloe Harvey**, Associate Statistician, ESCAP
			– **Mr. Filippo Caruso**, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP Tajikistan
09.55	10:15	Quick tour de table with introductions	Session moderated by **Mr. Seyid Tahir Mahmud**, Senior Statistics Officer, SESRIC
10.15	10.30	Group Photo and Coffee Break	

APPENDIX I: MEETING OF CENTRAL ASIAN CIVIL REGISTRARS

TIME		AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKER
DAY 1			
10:30	**10.45**	Review of agenda and ways of working Introduction to the Potential of a Civil Registrars' Network in Central Asia.	– **Dr. Chloe Harvey**, Associate Statistician, ESCAP – **Mr. Romain Santon**, Deputy Director CRVS Program, Vital Strategies *Rapporteur: Dr. Romesh Silva, Technical Specialist, UNFPA*
10.45	**11.05**	Speed data-ing, moderated by Dr. Chloe Harvey	
11:05	**12.30**	Introduction to Digitalization of CRVS Systems The Procedure for State Registration of Civil Status Acts in the Republic of Kazakhstan Presentation on Digitalization Efforts in Georgia. The Current Status of Civil Registration in Mongolia and the Digitalization of Death Registration	Session moderated by **Ms. Ainur Kanafina**, Programme Specialist in Population and Development, UNFPA Speakers: – **Mr. BP Panwar**, UNICEF – **Ms. Venera Kalimova**, Chairman, Ministry of Justice, Kazakhstan – **Mr. Irakli Chedlidze** Head of Civil Acts and Population Registration Unit, Ministry of Justice, Georgia – **Mr. Tuguldur Tuul** Head of the Civil State Registration Department, General Authority for State Registration of Mongolia *Rapporteur: Dr. Romesh Silva, Technical Specialist, UNFPA*
12.30	**13.30**	Lunch Break	
13.30	**13.50**	Trends in the Development of Civil Registry Offices in Uzbekistan	Session moderated by **Ms. Ainur Kanafina**, Programme Specialist in Population and Development, UNFPA – **Mr. Anvarjon Bakhodirjon Tursunaliyev** Chief Consultant of the Department for Coordination of the Activities of State Service Centers and Civil Registry Bodies – **Ms. Talapova Kabirakhon Kodiralievna**, Head of the Civil Registry Department of the Chust District of the Namangan Region, Ministry of Justice, Uzbekistan

APPENDIX I: MEETING OF CENTRAL ASIAN CIVIL REGISTRARS

TIME		AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKER
DAY 1			
13.50	14.30	Discussion, Q and A on country presentations	Session moderated by **Ms. Ainur Kanafina**, Programme Specialist in Population and Development, UNFPA *Rapporteur: Dr. Romesh Silva, Technical Specialist, UNFPA*
14.30	15.00	Coffee Break	
15.00	16.00	World Café: CRVS Thematic Issues across Eurasia – **Dr. Chloe Harvey**, ESCAP to introduce (and time keeper) **World Café**: Each table has a table host who will facilitate the discussions and ensure they are documented. Participants can move between their tables of choice every 15 minutes. **Table 1**: *ICT costing and funding* – **Mr. BP Panwar,** T4D Business Analyst, UNICEF ECARO and; – **Mr. Anvar Aminov**, PD Analyst for UNFPA Tajikistan **Table 2**: *Unique identifiers and links with national ID and other government sectors* – **Dr. Romesh Silva**, Technical specialist, UNFPA and; – **Ms. Ainur Kanafina**, Programme Specialist in Population and Development, UNFPA **Table 3**: *Mapping existing business processes as an input into digitalization efforts* – **Dr. Chloe Harvey**, Associate Statistician, ESCAP and; – **Mr. Azam Toshpulatov**, PD Analyst for UNFPA Uzbekistan **Table 4**: *Online registration* – **Mr. Filippo Caruso**, Chief Technical Advisor for UNDP Tajikistan-interpreter 1 **Table 5**: *Digitalization of existing records* – **Ms. Tanja Sejersen**, Statistician, ESCAP, interpreter 2 **Table 6**: *Links with health sector and notifications etc* – **Mr. Romain Santon**, Vital Strategies – **Ms. Asel Turgunova**, PD and Youth Analyst, UNFPA Kyrgyzstan	
16.00	17.00	Feedback from World Café tables on digitization and identification of key challenges, solutions and recommendations related to digitization of civil registration systems	Session facilitated by **Ms. Tanja Sejersen**, Statistician, ESCAP *Rapporteur: Mr. Romain Santon, Vital Strategies*

APPENDIX I: MEETING OF CENTRAL ASIAN CIVIL REGISTRARS

TIME		AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKER
DAY 2			
09.00	**09.15**	Wrap-up from day 1	– **Dr. Romesh Silva** Technical Specialist, UNFPA
09.15	**10.45**	Introduction to the purpose of subregional networks Consejo Latinamericano y del Caribe de Registro Civil, Identidad y Estadisticas Vitales (CLARCIEV) CR8 – Civil registration professionals of South Asia Discussion	Session moderated by **Ms. Tanja Sejersen**, Statistician, ESCAP – **Mr. Juan Minetto** Project Manager, Organizacion de los Estadoes Americanos (OEA) – **Mr. Md. Zahid Hossain** Registrar General (Birth and Death), Government of Bangladesh *Rapporteur: Mr. Romain Santon, Vital Strategies*
10.45	**11.00**	Coffee Break	
11.00	**12.10**	Overview of assessing and addressing inequalities in CRVS Achievements and future plans of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of civil registration Extending completeness and coverage of registration in Tajikistan	Session moderated by **Dr. Chloe Harvey**, Associate Statistician, ESCAP – **Ms. Dariia Raiymkulova** Expert, State Institution 'Kyzmat', Administrative Affairs Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan – **Mrs. Mainisso Alizoda** Head of Main Civil Registry Department, Ministry of Justice – **Mr. Faridun Sharifi** IT Director SUE 'Qonuniyat', Ministry of Justice *Rapporteur: Ms. Tanja Sejersen, ESCAP*
12.10	**13.10**	Lunch Break	
13.10	**17.00**	Site Visit to Türkiye CRVS Agency Meet at 1.15 p.m. for transport to the site visit. Return to SESRIC by 5.30 p.m.	

APPENDIX I: MEETING OF CENTRAL ASIAN CIVIL REGISTRARS

TIME		AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKER
DAY 3			
09.00	**09.30**	Wrap-up from day 2, reflections on site visits	– **Dr. Romesh Silva** Technical Specialist, UNFPA
09.30	**10.00**	The 2025 Review of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade and the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific	– **Ms. Tanja Sejersen** Statistician, ESCAP *Rapporteur: Dr. Chloe Harvey, ESCAP*
10.00	**10.30**	Addressing CRVS Inequalities Through the Life Course and Advancing Resilient Systems	– **Dr. Romesh Silva** Technical Specialist, UNFPA *Rapporteur: Dr. Chloe Harvey, ESCAP*
10.30	**10.45**	Coffee Break	
10.45	**12.00**	**World Café** **Ms. Tanja Sejersen,** Statistician, ESCAP to introduce Each table has a table host who will facilitate the discussions and ensure they are documented. Participants can move between their tables of choice every 15 minutes. **Table 1**: *Quantitative assessments and identifying groups left behind, statistical capacity* – **Dr. Chloe Harvey**, Associate Statistician, ESCAP – **Mr. Azam Toshpulatov**, PD Analyst, UNFPA Uzbekistan **Table 2**: *Building resilient CRVS systems* – **Ms. Tanja Sejersen**, Statistician, ESCAP, Interpreter 2 **Table 3**: *Outreach/working with marginalized communities* – **Ms. Ainur Kanafina**, Programme Specialist in Population and Development, UNFPA **Table 4**: *Addressing specific groups (gender, disabilities, foundlings, etc.)* – **Dr. Romesh Silva**, Technical Specialist, UNFPA, Interpreter 1 **Table 5**: *Collaboration with NGOs and civil society* – **Mr. Filippo Caruso**, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP Tajikistan **Table 6**: *Creating incentives for registration and engaging policy makers for implementation* – **Ms. Marine Yaylakhanyan**, Head of Civil Status Acts Registration Agency, Armenia	
12.00	**13.00**	Lunch Break	

APPENDIX I: MEETING OF CENTRAL ASIAN CIVIL REGISTRARS

TIME		AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKER
DAY 3			
13.00	**13.30**	Feedback and discussion from World Café and identification of key challenges, solutions and recommendations related to assessing and addressing inequalities in registration systems and outcomes	Session moderated by **Mr. Fabio Losa**, Demographic Resilience and Policy Advisor at UNFPA EECARO *Rapporteur: Dr. Chloe Harvey, ESCAP*
13.30	**14.30**	Discussion on the Set-Up of Subregional CRVS Network	Session moderated by **Ms. Tanja Sejersen**, Statistician, ESCAP *Rapporteur Ms. Ainur Kanafina*
14.30	**14.45**	Coffee Break	
14.45	**15.45**	Decisions on Key Recommendations from the Meeting	Session moderated by **Ms. Tanja Sejersen**, Statistician, ESCAP *Rapporteur Ms. Ainur Kanafina*
15.45	**16.15**	Closing Remarks, Wrap-Up and Next Steps	SESRIC, UNFPA, ESCAP and UNDP

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5
APPENDIX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	Name	Position	Organization
1	**Ms. Marine Yaylakhanyan**	Head of Civil Status Acts Registration Agency	Ministry of Justice, Armenia
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APPENDIX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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APPENDIX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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APPENDIX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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APPENDIX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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