

STATEMENT
Senior Officials Segment
Towards Implementing the Regional Action Framework



Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Myanmar delegation, I wish to congratulate the Commission for organizing this Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics to discuss its role in the emerging development agenda beyond 2015. I also wish to convey our sincere appreciation and gratitude for guiding and supporting our participation in this segment as well.

The registration of births and deaths in Myanmar started at the beginning of the twentieth century, in 1907. The system was gradually improved throughout the years in order to reach all areas to register the vital events. According to MICS 2010, the birth registration coverage had reached to 72%. However there are differences between urban and rural, 93.5% and 63.5% respectively.

There have been recent efforts by Myanmar, which signifies their commitment to the improvement of CRVS. These efforts have been geared towards both the Declaration and the Regional Action Framework, and the latter's implementation plan, as follows:

- National CRVS coordination mechanism and focal point

As a sign of our sustained political commitment to this endeavor, the Coordination Committee for Birth and Death Registration was created by His Excellency, the President under the leadership of Deputy Minister of Immigration and Population in January 2014. The Committee was formed for the effective coordination between administrative levels and concerned departments at the *Central level, State/Region level, District level, Township level and Ward/Village Tract level*. Directives on data collection techniques, channels for reporting, policy and procedures on updating and maintenance of statistics have been released.

- Standards-based comprehensive assessment of CRVS

An assessment of the Myanmar birth registration system was conducted in the latter half of 2013. Included were a legal and policy mapping and analysis in the area of birth registration and civil registration. These were based on findings from on-the-ground interviews of township/ward/village tract officials and villagers, which represented some hard-to-reach and marginalized populations in selected geographic areas and administrative subdivisions.

- National CRVS strategy

A strategic plan was drafted in May 2014 and presented in a Forum on Accelerating Birth Registration in Myanmar in July 2014 to officially present initiatives in birth registration at the grassroots level with the relevant departments, officials from the focused states and region involved in CRVS coordination, development partners, media, NGOs, and Parliament members. This draft embodies the vision, goals and action areas of the Regional Action Framework.

As we study and set the targets as commitment to the Regional Action Framework, we intend to assign a Civil Registrar General, develop a comprehensive CRVS law and operate a working

effective electronic platform to be able to create permanent records of registration on scaling-up at nationwide.

Chairperson and Distinguished delegates

Despite these promising initiatives, Myanmar continues to struggle with the challenges which other LDCs also face in improving CRVS.

In line with this, the Government of Myanmar has closely collaborated with UNICEF as a long-standing partner and is expected to continue its collaboration with other development partners. The Government of Myanmar would like to invite the donor community to invest in the people of Myanmar by strengthening our CRVS.

We are confident that with this continuing initiative of the Commission to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics, all countries will strive to 'get everyone in the picture.'

Thank you very much.

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