



FIFTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING GROUP FOR CIVIL  
REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS (CRVS) IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
17-19 SEPTEMBER 2019



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## MEETING OBJECTIVES

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1. How to support countries to ensure submissions of midterm evaluation reports
  - a. Feedback from countries on progress with their midterm reports so far
  - b. Discussion on potential further support to countries
  
2. Preparatory work for the Ministerial Conference (main event)
  - a. Briefing on the planned preparatory process for the Ministerial Conference
  - b. Discussion of elements to be covered in the regional synthesis report
  - c. Discussing key issues and responsibilities for additional analytical work, such as the link between CRVS and SDGs, ID systems, gender equality, interoperability, innovative technologies and whole-of-government approaches to improving CRVS.
  - d. Proposing and discussing possible content of the draft outcome document
  - e. Communication and advocacy for the Ministerial Conference
  
3. Preparatory work for the Ministerial Conference (side events and special sessions)
  - a. Briefing on the potential for side events and special sessions to be held in conjunction with the Ministerial Conference
  - b. Identifying key issues and responsibilities for side events and special sessions
  
4. Working arrangements of the Regional Steering Group

## DAY 1: Tuesday, 17 September 2019

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Session	Description	Chair / rapporteur
No. 1 9.00 MR- F	<b>Welcome, adoption of agenda and introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome remarks by Ms Gemma Van Halderen, Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP</li><li>- Tour-de-table with introductions and response to the question: What is your CRVS dream for your country and what are you doing to make it happen?</li></ul>	Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji (Chair 2015-2019 group)
No. 2 9.45 MR- F	<b>Overview of the CRVS Decade, RSG role, Chairs and Vice chairs, partnership</b> <p><i>Expected outcome</i></p> <p>This session will give new members of the Regional Steering Group a chance to gain a better understanding of the role of the group and ask questions for clarification. It will also give introduction to the remaining sessions of the Regional Steering Group meeting</p> <p><i>Documents</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Terms of Reference of the Regional Steering Group (shared via email)</li><li>- The outcome documents from the Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific held in 2014</li></ul>	<b>Session Chair:</b> Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji <b>Rapporteur:</b> Mr Romain Santon, D4H/Vital Strategies

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- Background Note on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific (shared via email)

***Presentations and plenary session***

- **An introduction to the CRVS Decade, the role of the Regional Steering Group, the CRVS Partnership, the status of preparations for the Ministerial Conference on CRVS and the meeting agenda** (Ms Tanja Sejersen, ESCAP)
- Regional Steering Group members who have participated in previous meetings will highlight what they found most important in those meetings.

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10:30

**Coffee break & Group Photo**

No. 3  
11.00  
MR- F

**Ministerial Conference preparations, Midterm review of the CRVS Decade questionnaire**

**Expected outcome:**

Identification of mechanisms to increase the number and quality of responses to the midterm questionnaire to ensure a good overview of the regional progress for the Ministerial Conference.

***Presentations***

- **Overview of the midterm questionnaire process** (Mr David Rausis, ESCAP)
- **Country presentation from countries who have already tried to complete the questionnaire:** Ms Ani Mkhitarian, Armenia; Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji; and Mr Waheedullah Fariady, Afghanistan

**Session chair:**

Special Chair:  
Mr Jeff  
Montgomery,  
New Zealand

**Rapporteur:**

Ms Kendra  
Gregson,  
UNICEF

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***Sub-regional group work looking at the questionnaire raising issues (Room H also available)***

- What is the current status with the questionnaires amongst members?
- What are the problems, what actions can be taken to initiate/accelerate the process?
- What types of regional support can further country actions?

***Plenary feedback from group work***

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12.15

**Lunch**

No. 4  
13.15  
MR- F

**Ministerial Conference preparations, civil society engagement, private sector involvement, side events and opportunities for showcasing achievements**

**Session chair:**  
TBC  
**Rapporteur:**  
Mr Jonathan Marskell,  
World Bank

***Expected outcome***

Initial ideas for civil society engagement, private sector involvement, side events and opportunities for showcasing achievements are identified and a process for further outreach on these elements outlined.

***Documents***

- Programme for 2014 Ministerial Conference (shared via email)
- Background Note on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific (shared via email)

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***Presentations:***

- **Video showing key events from the Ministerial Conference in 2014**
- **The 2020 Ministerial Conference programme, overview of the options for side event, special sessions etc.**
- **Private sector involvement, experiences from the Pacific**, Mr Jeff Montgomery, Pacific Civil Registrars Network (PCRN) and New Zealand

***Plenary discussion***

- Brainstorming on ideas for civil society engagement, side events and opportunities for showcasing achievements
- Discussion on the possible modalities of private sector entities involvement

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No. 5  
14.00  
MR- F

**Ministerial Conference preparations:  
What do we want?**

***Expected outcome***

Initial ideas for the Ministerial Conference are shared to highlight the objectives of the Ministerial Conference for the individual members of the Regional Steering Group.

**Session chair:**  
Vice-Chair,  
TBC

**Rapporteur:**  
Mr David  
Rausis, ESCAP

***Presentation***

- **What was agreed at the Regional Steering Group meeting in 2018** (Mr David Rausis, ESCAP)

***Brainstorming session in sub-regional groups  
(Room H also available)***

Questions:

- What do you want to show at the Ministerial Conference?
- Which CRVS achievements over the first 5 years are you most proud of?

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- What do you want your Minister to remember from the Ministerial Conference?
  - How would we know whether the Ministerial Conference is a success?
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15.00 **Coffee break**

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No. 5 [cont.] 15.15 MR- F	<b>Reporting back from groups: What do we want?</b>  <i>Interactive session on key topics to be covered at the Ministerial Conference (Bring your phone)</i>	<b>Session chair:</b> Vice-Chair, TBC  <b>Rapporteur:</b> Mr David Rausis, ESCAP
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No. 6 16.00 MR- F	<b>Special session: CRVS and the SDGs</b> <i>Expected outcome</i> Members of the Regional Steering Group decided at their 3rd meeting to increase the focus on the SDG and CRVS link. This session will identify how to ensure this link is showcased at the Ministerial Conference.  <i>Presentations</i>	<b>Session chair:</b> Special Chair: Mr Jarnardan Yadav, India  <b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms Justine Boland, Australia
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- **The relevance of the SDG agenda to CRVS** (Ms Gemma Van Halderen, ESCAP)
  - **CRVS in the VNRs and the SDG reporting process, how to use the SDG review processes to highlight CRVS nationally, regionally and globally and examples of CRVS in VNRs** (Ms Sara Libera Zanetti, ESCAP)
  - **Linking the SDGs and CRVS** (Dr Shahanaz Arefin, Bangladesh)
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### ***Discussion***

- How can RSG members get CRVS on the SDG agenda nationally, regionally and globally?
  - How can we illuminate the link between CRVS and the 2030 agenda at the Ministerial Conference and in the outcome document of the Ministerial Conference?
  - Do we want a high-level panel on SDGs at the Ministerial Conference? Can this attract high level interest?
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## **DAY 2: Wednesday, 18 September 2019**

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9.00	<b>Recap of Day 1</b>	<b>Session chair:</b>
MR- F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Rapporteurs from Day 1 report back</li><li>- Any remaining questions are discussed</li></ul>	Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji

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No. 6 [cont.]	<b>Special session: CRVS and the SDGs</b>	<b>Session chair:</b>
	<b><i>Presentations</i></b>	Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji
9.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>16.9, what is available globally?</b> (Ms Claudia Cappa, UNICEF, via videolink)</li></ul>	
MR- F	<b><i>Questions and answers on the presentation</i></b>	<b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms Justine Boland, Australia

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No. 7	<b>Preparations for the Ministerial</b>	<b>Session chair:</b>
9.45	<b>Conference: Action Areas, special topic</b>	Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji
MR- F	<b>sessions and background papers</b>	
	<b><i>Expected outcomes</i></b>	
	Members of the Regional Steering Group decide on the most urgent and important issues	

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under each Action Area today and tomorrow. This session introduces the Action Areas and what is expected from the sessions on these.

**Documents**

- Example of information notes from the 2014 Ministerial Conference

**Presentation**

- **What are the Action Areas? How will we prioritize which topics to bring to the Ministerial Conference? How can these topics work to support high level participation?** (Mr David Rausis, ESCAP)

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No. 8  
9.50  
MR- F

**Preparations for the Ministerial Conference Special Topic Sessions: Progress of Action Areas and C (Coordination) and Action Areas D (Policies, legislation and implementation of regulations)**

**Session chair:**  
Special Chair:  
Mr Jeff  
Montgomery,  
New Zealand

**Rapporteur:**  
Ms Mariana  
Jalaghoia,  
Georgia

**Expected outcomes**

The Regional Steering Group make decisions on what the most relevant topics under this Action Area are, and how these should be discussed at the Ministerial Conference, addressed in the midterm regional report, and outcome document of the Ministerial Conference. In addition, ideas for who could be involved in writing documents and organizing sessions will be shared.

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### ***Presentations***

- **Coordination in countries** (Mr Mohammad Abbasi, Iran)
- **D4H legal review tools** (Mr Romain Santon, D4H/Vital Strategies)
- **Coordination and legislative review** (Ms Thirakha Chanthalanouvong, Lao PDR)
- **Considerations of privacy and confidentiality** (paper on privacy to be shared in advance for review)
- **Considerations of information to appear on certificates**

### ***Discussion***

- Are some topics missing? What are the most urgent and important issues related to policies, legislation and implementation of regulations?
- Are there any specific topics that warrants a discussion at the Ministerial Conference?
- Is a background document on any topic related to this necessary? If so, what should it focus on and who could be involved in writing it?

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11.00

### **Coffee break**

No. 9

**Preparations for the Ministerial Conference Special Topic Sessions: Progress of Action Areas A (Political commitment), and B: Public**

11.15

MR- F

**Session chair:**

Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji

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## Engagement, participation and generating demand

**Rapporteur:**  
Ms Kathrine  
Yee

### *Expected outcomes*

The Regional Steering Group make decisions on what the most relevant topics under this Action Area are, and how these should be discussed at the Ministerial Conference, addressed in the midterm regional report, and outcome document of the Ministerial Conference. In addition, ideas for who could be involved in writing documents and organizing sessions will be shared.

Whether gender should be more explicitly addressed in the outcome document is agreed upon.

### *Presentations*

- **Service delivery and CRVS** (Ms Nazaria Baharudin, Malaysia)
- **Improving accessibility of civil registration services** (Ms Tebete England, Kiribati)
- **The high-level segment on statelessness and the subregional consultations on the midway of the iBelong campaign**, UNHCR, Mr Marin Roman on Central Asia, Mr Jelvas Musau, Asia
- **Focus on inclusion, leaving no one behind and particular groups of concern** (Mr Jelvas Musau, UNHCR)
- **Ensuring complete registration for all: Out-reach to Indigenous populations in Australia** (Ms Justine Boland, Australia)
- **Gender and CRVS**, Ms Irina Dincu Center of Excellence on CRVS, via videolink

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### **Discussion**

- What are the most urgent and important discussions related to political commitment, public engagement, participation and generating demand?
- Are there any specific topics that warrants a discussion at the Ministerial Conference?
- Is a background document on any topic related to this necessary? If so, what should it focus on and who could be involved in writing it?
- Should we be monitoring whether countries are addressing gender-related, demand-side and supply-side barriers to CRVS

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12.00  
Theatre  
(Ground  
floor  
UNCC,  
across  
from the  
Garden  
café,  
next to  
the  
medical  
unit)

### **Lunch Event: Special session on OpenCRVS by Plan International**



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No. 9  
[cont.]  
13.30  
MR-F

### **Preparations for the Ministerial Conference Special Topic Sessions: Progress of Action Areas A (Political commitment), and B: Public**

**Session chair:**  
Ms Kamni  
Naidu, Fiji

**Rapporteur:**  
Ms Kathrine

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**Engagement, participation and generating demand**

Yee, World Vision

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No. 10  
14.00  
MR-F

**Ministerial Conference preparations: elevator talks with the Prime Minister**

*Expected outcome*

Through a practical exercise, RSG members are better equipped to communicate effectively about the need for CRVS improvements to key stakeholders in countries

*Group sessions (Room H also available)*

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15.00

**Coffee break**

No. 11  
15.15  
MR-F

**Preparations for the Ministerial Conference Special Topic Sessions: Progress of Action Areas F (Operational procedures, practices and innovations)**

*Expected outcomes*

The Regional Steering Group make decisions on what the most relevant topics under this Action Area are, and how these should be discussed at the Ministerial Conference, addressed in the midterm regional report, and outcome document of the Ministerial Conference. In addition, ideas for who could be involved in writing documents and organizing sessions will be shared.

**Session chair:**  
Vice-Chair: Dr Shahanaz Arefin, Bangladesh

**Rapporteur:**  
Ms Rachel Harvey, UNICEF

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### ***Presentations***

- **Transforming traditional models of Civil Registration through innovations**, Ms Annina Wersun, Plan International
- **The next generation of the CRVS Improvement Framework**, Ms Gloria Mathenge, SPC/Brisbane Accord Group
- **Way Forward-Capture each and every Vital event**, Mr Jarnardan Yadav, India
- **Introduction to ICD 11**, Dr Azza Badr, WHO
- **The newly developed death certification curriculum and infographic**, Dr Azza Badr, WHO
- **Verbal Autopsy in the Regional Action Framework and practice**, Ms Carla Abouzahr, D4H/Vital Strategies, via videolink

### ***Discussion***

- What are the most urgent and important issues related to operational procedures, practices and innovations?
- Are there any specific topics that warrants a discussion at the Ministerial Conference?
- Is a background document on any topic related to this necessary? If so, what should it focus on and who could be involved in writing it?
- Showcasing innovations at the side lines of the Ministerial Conference?
- Is there a need for a reformulation of the target on verbal autopsy? (Target 3E)

## DAY 3: Thursday, 19 September 2019

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9.00 **Recap of day 2**

MR- F

**Session chair:**

Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji

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No. 12  
9.30 **Preparations for the Ministerial Conference Special Topic Sessions: Progress of Action Areas E (Infrastructure and resources)**

MR- F

**Session chair:**

Vice-Chair: Dr Shahanaz Arefin, Bangladesh

**Rapporteur:** Olga Joos, CDC/D4H

### ***Expected outcomes***

The Regional Steering Group make decisions on what the most relevant topics under this Action Area are, and how these should be discussed at the Ministerial Conference, addressed in the midterm regional report, and outcome document of the Ministerial Conference. In addition, ideas for who could be involved in writing documents and organizing sessions will be shared.

### ***Presentations***

- **Digitization** (TBC)
  - **Financing of CRVS - how to make money out of CRVS without charging for registrations** (Mr Jeff Montgomery, New Zealand)
  - **Public-private partnerships**, Mr Fred Sollestra, Philippines
  - **The role of human resources for well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems**, Mr Raj Mitra, independent consultant, via videolink
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- 
- **Program Strategy for Implementing the National Strategic Plan on Identification,**  
Mr. They Kheam, Cambodia

**Discussion**

- What are the most urgent and important issues related to infrastructure and resources?
- Are there any specific topics that warrants a discussion at the Ministerial Conference?
- Should a special session on digital identity be included?
- Is a background document on any topic related to this necessary? If so, what should it focus on and who could be involved in writing it?

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10.30

**Coffee break**

No. 13  
10.45  
MR- F

**Preparations for the Ministerial Conference Special Topic Sessions: Progress of Action Area G (Production, dissemination and use of vital statistics)**

**Session chair:**  
Vice-Chair, TBC  
**Rapporteur:** Gloria Mathenge SPC/  
Brisbane Accord Group

**Expected outcomes**

The Regional Steering Group make decisions on what the most relevant topics under Action Area are, and how these should be discussed at the Ministerial Conference, addressed in the midterm regional report, and outcome document of the Ministerial Conference. In addition, ideas for who could be involved in writing documents and organizing sessions will be shared.

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### ***Presentations***

- **Georgia's road to use civil registration records for vital statistics** (10 min)  
(Mariana Jalaghonia, Georgia)
- **Experiences with data sharing between Civil registries and the Australian Bureau of Statistics** (Ms Justine Boland, Australia)
- **Improving vital statistics in Kazakhstan**  
(Mr Nurlan Khanzhigitov, Kazakhstan)

### ***Discussion***

- What are the most urgent and important issues related to this Action Area?
- Are there any specific topics that warrants a discussion at the Ministerial Conference?
- Is a background document on any topic related to this necessary? If so, what should it focus on and who could be involved in writing it?

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12.00

**Lunch**

No. 14

**Special session, Legal identity and CRVS**

13.00

MR- F

### ***Expected outcome***

The expected outcome of the session is a shared understanding of the concept of legal identity and what needs to be done in this area for the Ministerial Conference. The RSG has previously called for the 2020 Ministerial Conference to promote civil registration as a foundation for legal identity for all. We therefore need the RSG to make a decision on which kind of background document will be needed for the Ministerial Conference and

**Session chair:**

Mr Jeff  
Montgomery,  
New Zealand

**Rapporteur:**

Ms Annina  
Wersun, Plan  
International

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how this issue could be reflected in the declaration from the Conference.

### ***Presentations***

- **The role of legal identity and birth registration in the SDGs** (Ms Kendra Gregson UNICEF)
- **The work of the Legal Identity Expert Group (LIEG)** (Mr Oliver Chinganya, UN Economic Commission for Africa, via videolink)
- **Legal Identity, Digital Identity, and the ID-CR link** (Mr Jonathan Marskell, World Bank ID4D)
- **Experiences with linkages between National ID and CRVS** (Mr Hariyadi, Indonesia)
- **Thai Citizen ID and CRVS** (Dr Boonchai Kijjanayotin, Thailand)
- **Some issues about widespread use of ID and PII-related problems** (Mohammad Abbasi, Iran)
- **Integration of CRVS and ID systems** (Mr Amarbal Avirmed, Mongolia)

### ***Discussion***

- What challenges and opportunities are offered to national CRVS stakeholders by the growing momentum in developing IDM systems?
- Should ID departments be specifically invited for the MC?
- Are we talking legal identity, id, id management systems, digital ID...? narrowing and agreeing on the focus and definitions.

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- Should the issue of using biometrics be addressed at the Ministerial Conference, and if so, which angle (ethics, technical issues etc.)

No. 15  
14.30  
MR- F

## **Preparations for the Ministerial Conference -outcome document**

**Session chair:**

Ms Kamni  
Naidu, Fiji

**Rapporteur:**

Mr Jelvas  
Musau, UNHCR

### ***Expected outcomes***

The Regional Steering Group make decisions on the key elements and language they would like to have included in the outcome document from the 2020 Ministerial Conference to guide the Secretariat in its further work with the document.

### ***Presentations***

- **What does an outcome document look like** (Ms Tanja Sejersen, Statistician, Statistics Division, ESCAP)
- **Possible options for minor amendments to the Regional Action Framework** (Mr David Rausis, ESCAP)

### ***Brainstorming sessions (group work by sub regions, Room H also available)***

- What are the key global/regional agreements since 2014, which needs to be reflected in the outcome document? (i.e. Global compact on Migration, Global compact on refugees)
- What do we want from the Ministerial Conference to support the

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CRVS agenda for the remainder of the CRVS Decade?

- Which ideas, elements and language do we want to see in the outcome document?
- Are any amendments to Goal 2: adding a target on CRVS and ID links needed or further guidance for Goal 3, target 3E?

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15.00 **Coffee break**

No. 15  
[cont.] **Preparations for the Ministerial Conference -outcome document**

15.15

MR- F

*Plenary discussion, reporting back from groups*

**Session chair:**

Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji

**Rapporteur:** Mr

Jelvas Musau,

UNHCR

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No. 16  
15.45 **Preparations for the Ministerial Conference (prioritising topics)**

MR- F

***Expected outcomes***

The Regional Steering Group make decisions on the key focus areas for the Ministerial Conference formal sessions, special sessions and report of the midterm review to guide the Secretariat in its further preparations for the Ministerial Conference.

***Discussion***

- Prioritising Action Areas or special topics, what should be in the outcome document and main segment of the Ministerial Conference (formal sessions), what should

**Session chair:**

Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji

**Rapporteur:**

Ms Jieun Park,

UNWomen

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be special sessions and what should be covered in the midterm report?

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No. 17      **Selection of Chair and vice chairs for the group for the 2020-2024 period**      **Session chair:**  
16:15  
**MR- F**      *Expected outcomes*  
The Regional Steering Group select the Chair and Vice Chairs for the 2020-2024 group.      Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji

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No. 18      **Wrap up: Realizing the ambition of “getting every one in the picture”**      **Session chair:**  
16:30-17:00  
**MR- F**      *Expected outcomes*  
*Agreed recommendations from the RSG for the organization of the Ministerial Conference*      Ms Kamni Naidu, Fiji

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***Presentations***

- Outcomes of each session from the rapporteurs

***Discussion***

- Revisiting the topics mentioned in session 5
  - Reviewing the recommendations from the meeting
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Get  
every one  
in the picture

