



## Ninth meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, 10-12 May 2023

### Concept Note

The ninth meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific will be organized in-person from 10 to 12 May 2023, at 09:00-17:00 Bangkok time (GMT+7). The purpose of the meeting is to discuss progress to-date, prepare for the final review of the Asia Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024) and possible extension, and decide on future focus areas for the work of the Regional Steering Group.

### Background

Since the inauguration of the Asia Pacific CRVS Decade in 2015, countries in the region have made significant progress in implementing the Regional Action Framework (RAF) and improving their national CRVS systems. The [Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific](#) in 2021 marked a crucial midpoint for the Decade and presented an opportunity to assess progress as well as identify areas of improvement. The [Midterm Report](#) noted that countries in the region is on the right path to achieving the goals under RAF highlighting the decisions to adapt the RAF into comprehensive and multisectoral national CRVS strategies as a key driver for the positive progress. More than 400 participants from 48 countries and 15 international organizations, including 40 Ministerial level speakers, attended the Conference which culminated in a [Report of the Conference](#) and [Ministerial Declaration](#) to guide countries' efforts for the second half of the Decade.

As the custodian of the RAF, the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific (RSG) has played a pivotal role in overseeing the implementation of key actions stated in the Report and Ministerial Declaration. At the conclusion of the eighth meeting of the RSG in 2022, the Group produced a [Report](#) containing a set of recommendations for ESCAP's Committee on Statistics to consider and provide relevant guidance to the statistical community. Key recommendations from the report include:

- To organise a Ministerial Conference in 2025 for the final review of the Decade
- Potential extension of the Decade to align with the 2030 Agenda or establishment of a new CRVS Decade for the region
- Conducting inequality assessments of CRVS systems and identifying and addressing barriers to registration
- Supporting coordination between relevant government agencies and inter-ministerial collaborations with effective legislative frameworks or, if needed, memoranda of understanding
- Strengthening the capacity of civil registrars via peer-to-peer learning
- Integrating CRVS into national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans
- Increasing support on upholding data protection, privacy, and confidentiality principles

- Utilizing digital technology to streamline civil registration processes
- Establishing coordination mechanisms at relevant governance levels
- Ensuring sustainable funding and timely allocation of investments from development partners

ESCAP's Committee on Statistics at its Eighth Session (CST8) acknowledged the recommendations of the RSG and expressed its commitments to achieving the vision and goals established in the Ministerial Declaration and RAF. Country representatives at CST8 supported findings from the RSG Report and expressed support for several key recommendations including the 2025 Ministerial Conference to assess the outcome of the final review of the Decade and extension of the Decade to align with the 2030 Agenda. The RSG members will meet for its ninth session to discuss progress of work and identify areas of focus for future work.

## Objectives

The objectives of the ninth regional steering group meeting are to discuss progress since the last RSG meeting, prepare for the final review of the Decade including deciding on themes and topics for country questionnaires, deliberate on a possible extension to the CRVS Decade, and decide on focus areas for future work.

## Format of the meeting

The meeting will be organized in hybrid setting with most participants attending in-person and online participants joining via Microsoft Teams platform. The modality of the meeting will be a combination of presentations, interactive discussion and feedback sessions. Selected members of the RSG and experts will be asked in advance to be presenters and discussants during the sessions.

## Participants

Members of the RSG will be invited to the meeting. They can nominate alternate or additional participants if necessary. Other Members and Associate Members of ESCAP, development partners, donors and experts can participate as observers in agreement with ESCAP.

New members of the group can attend a short briefing on the work of the Regional Steering Group in advance of the meeting.

## Language

The working language of the meeting will be English.