



Report from the Second Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration 3-7 September 2012

IX Annual Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Council of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CLARCIEV)

24-25 October 2012

Guayaquil, Ecuador

by

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Outline of Presentation

- Background
- Objectives of the 2nd Ministerial Conference
- Organization of the Conference
- Composition of participants
- Resolution of the Conference



Background

First Expert Meeting in Dar- es- Salam, Tanzania in June 2009

- ✓ Identified bottlenecks and planted the seed for new approach
- ✓ Highlighted the need for political commitment from African countries
- ✓ Mandated AfDB, UNECA, and AUC to develop a Medium Term Plan (MTP)

1st African Ministers Conference



- The First Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration (August 2010) recognized civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system as a development imperative. It further recognized the importance of CRVS in
- a) Ensuring good governance
 - b) Realization of human rights
 - c) Measuring progress of development

The Ministers also recognized that the CRVS system is multi-disciplinary in nature and therefore, recommended an integrated and holistic approach in improving it.

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Made a number of declarations providing policy ground for moving the regional agenda

Requested for a thorough assessment of CRVS in all African Countries

The Ministers called upon to formulate appropriate policies and laws to ensure timely and compulsory registration of vital events taking into account country circumstances



Background ... cont'd

The Ministers requested Africa Union Commission (AUC) to consider institutionalizing the Conference of Ministers as a standing regional platform to meet every two years.

Agenda of the 2nd Ministerial Conference



- a) Review progress since the First Conference;
- b) Sustain the initiative;
- c) Strategize interventions and country-level operations; and
- d) Provide policy and political directives for future engagements

Organization of the Conference



Lead Agencies

- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Africa Union Commission (AUC)

Host Country

- Republic of South Africa . Department of Home Affairs

Partners

- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- WHO
- UNHCR
- HMN

Organization & Content



Two major engagements:-

Preparatory Meeting of Experts (3-5 Sept. 2012)

- Major Engagement . Preparation of the draft resolution to the Ministers

Ministerial Meeting (6-7 Sept. 2012)

Composition of Participants



Preparatory Meeting of Experts (over 250 participants attended):-

- ❖ Country experts from National Civil Registration Authorities (CRAs) and National Statistics Offices (NSOs)
- ❖ Regional and International experts, including NGOs
- ❖ Registrar General\$ (CRAs) and Director General\$ (NSOs)

Meeting was open to all interested parties

Composition & Content



Ministerial Meeting (over 350 participants attended):-

- ❖ Ministers responsible for Civil Registration
- ❖ Few Health ministers
- ❖ Registrar General\$ (CRAs)
- ❖ Director General\$ (NSOs)
- ❖ All experts attended the preparatory meeting of experts

Meeting was open to all interested parties

MCCR Resolutions



Major resolution points:-

❖ Substantive

- Mainstream CRVS in national development plans and programs
- Revise and update civil registration and statistical legislations
- Ensure allocation of adequate resources for CRVS from government budget
- Establish high-level coordination mechanism at national level . (problem area)

Resolution A Contd



Major resolution points:-

Substantive A Contd

- Ensure alignment of health management information system and the CRVS systems
- Develop results-based monitoring and evaluation systems and tools to monitor and report on progress on CRVS
- Continue to take steps to improve the availability and accessibility of civil registration services by devolving services to local levels
- Intensify awareness-raising campaigns to educate the public

Resolution À Cont



Major resolution points:-

❖ Immediate engagements

- African Countries to undertake in-depth assessment of the state of their national civil registration systems and develop a strategic and action plans for improving CRVS.
- The CRVS Secretariat and other partner organizations to continue to provide technical support to African countries through technical advisory services, workshops, training and provision of guidelines.
- The CRVS Secretariat to establish a regional knowledge hub on CRVS that promotes research to build technical capacity at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

Resolution À Cont



Major resolution points:-

❖ Immediate engagements À Cont

- CRVS Secretariat to undertake operational research in the area of death registration and certification of cause of death in Africa.
- African Ministers of Health to join the ministerial conference in view of the important role of the health sector in the delivery of civil registration services.
- Relevant national universities, regional research and training institutions to respond to the knowledge demand.
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For Further Reference

Visit the Conference website:

www.uneca.org/crmc



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