Side Event Concept Note: Strengthening CRVS Systems to Advance Gender Statistics

Organized by: ESCAP Statistics Division at the 10th UN Global Forum on Gender Statistics

1 October 2025 (5.15 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. GMT+4)

Background

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems are the permanent, continuous, and universal source of legal identity and vital statistics. They provide the foundation for inclusive governance, equitable access to services, and evidence-based policymaking. However, despite significant progress, persistent gender gaps remain in both registration and the production of gender-disaggregated vital statistics.

Women and girls are disproportionately excluded from CRVS systems due to social norms, administrative barriers, and structural inequalities. These gaps hinder their ability to claim rights, access education and health care, exercise property and inheritance rights, and participate fully in society. The absence of reliable, gender-sensitive vital statistics further limits governments' ability to design and monitor effective policies that address inequality and advance gender equality.

Strengthening CRVS systems with a deliberate gender perspective is essential for ensuring universal legal identity and for producing the disaggregated data required to monitor progress under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Doing so also contributes to resilience in times of crisis, as CRVS provides a trusted source of population data and a mechanism to protect rights during displacement, disaster, and conflict

Objectives

The side event will:

- Examine how CRVS systems can be leveraged to close gender gaps in legal identity and vital statistics.
- Highlight innovative practices and reforms that successfully integrate gender considerations into CRVS policies, operations, and data use.
- Showcase diverse country experiences and regional perspectives, identifying common challenges and transferable lessons.
- Explore opportunities for partnerships across governments, UN agencies, civil society, and development partners to strengthen gender-responsive CRVS systems.

Format

Moderated panel discussion followed by interactive Q&A with the audience.

Moderator and Panelists

Moderator:
Petra Nahmias, Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section, ESCAP Statistics Division

Panelists:

- Mariam Khan, UNFPA Representative to Türkiye, Country Director for Azerbaijan and Georgia
- Bouchra Bouziani, Senior statistician, head of social statistics unit, High Commission for Planning, Morocco
- Moktar Awaleh Wais, Deputy Director of Social Statistics, Demographic Studies and Research, National Institute of Statistics of Djibouti (INSTAD)
- Papa Seck, Chief, Research and Data Section, UNWomen
- Paata Savishvili, Deputy Executive Director, National Statistics Office, Georgia

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