

## **2nd Meeting of the Global CRVS Group**

Date: 24 September 2014, 18:30-20:00

Place: Seoul, Republic of Korea

Attendance: PARIS21/OECD, SPC, UNECA, UNESCAP, UNICEF, UNSD, WHO, World Bank.

- The Second meeting of the Global CRVS Group took place at the Conrad Seoul Hotel on 24 September, as a side event of the International Identity Management Conference, organized by three regional banks (ADB, AfDb, IADB). The representatives from eight member organizations attended the meeting. Although three regional banks had expressed their interest in attending the meeting, their participation was not possible due to the conflict with their schedule as organizers of the International Identity Management Conference. SPC joined the meeting through telephone.
- Ms. Osaki-Tomita of UN Statistics Division (UNSD) at the opening of the meeting briefed the participants about the developments since April 2014 when the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting took place in Addis Ababa. She informed the participants that the ToR of the Group was finalized and uploaded on the web of the Group that UNSD maintains. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) joined the Group as a new member. She explained that since the establishment of the Group, several NGOs or individual researchers approached her and expressed their interest in the membership. However, their requests had to be turned down, in light of the current ToR.
- The participating organizations briefed in the form of tour-de-table about the recent and planned activities that could be of interests to the Group. Among the key events in coming months were 1) the high-level event by Every Woman and Every Child at the General Assembly, 25 September 2014, New York; 2) the meeting on improving Mortality Statistics as part of Strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, 4-5 November 2014, Geneva; 3) Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, 24-28 November 2014, Bangkok; and 4) Technical meeting that UNICEF is hosting with IADB on ‘information and communication technologies to support birth registration’, 8-9 December 2014, Bern, Switzerland; 5) African Symposium on Statistical Development, January 2015, Uganda; and 6) Meeting on “Measurement”, by the WB, WHO, and USAID, 10-12 March 2014. Given the fluid nature of the schedule, it was agreed that UNSD will send another email to solicit the information regarding planned events of the member organization, so that the event calendar of the Group on the website will be updated.
- Many member organizations have been involved in the capacity development activities in the area of CRVS. In this connection, various standard, norms and tools for improving CRVS system have been produced by different international and regional organizations. In view of that these materials need to be revised or updated for foreseeable demands, the participants agreed that it will be a useful exercise to take stock of the existing materials on CRVS. Once the information is gathered and

presented systematically, it should reveal where the overwrap of technical materials appears and where the gaps in knowledge exist. The UNICEF representatives agreed to prepare a form that the members organizations would fill in, based on the existing table prepared by WHO, and solicit member organizations to provide the input.

- The discussion also ensued on how the issue of CRVS can be more effectively addressed to the international community. UNSD mentioned that the Statistical Commission at its last session requested UNSD to prepare a paper on CRVS and submit to the next Commission in 2015. The group considered that this will be a good opportunity for the international statistical community to learn about the recent developments/initiatives in the CRVS area. It was considered that the report should address the issue of CRVS in the context of SDGs or the broad development agenda, rather than limiting it within the scope of statistical development. The members of Group agreed to provide necessary inputs and comment on the draft report, when it is ready.
- The meeting adjured, hoping that the Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific in November would give another opportunity for the group to meet.