

1st Meeting of the Global CRVS Group

Date: 29 April 2014, 16:30-18:30

Place: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Attendance: UNECA, UNESCWA, UNESCAP, ADB, AfDB, PARIS21/OECD, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNSD, ECEW/UN, WHO, World Bank, DFATO (Canada).

- The first meeting of the Global CRVS Group took place at UNECA Conference Room on 28 April, as a side event of the Global CRVS Investment Planning-Technical Consultation Meeting, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Twenty-three persons from relevant 12 international and regional organizations attended the meeting. The representatives of UNICEF HQ and the Office of Every Woman Every Child in New York, and UNESCAP in Bangkok also joined the meeting though a telephone.
- Ms. Osaki-Tomita of UN Statistics Division (UNSD) opened the meeting and provided the participants with the backdrop that brought together international and regional organizations to form a group on CRVS at the global level. It was at the Meeting of Global Partners for CRVS, organized by UNSD in New York in March 2014 when the need for a global platform where CRVS stakeholders can meet was voiced. In some regions a political commitment to the improvement of CRVS already exists, and the international community needs to build on this.
- Ms. Osaki-Tomita briefed the Group about the initiatives that the Secretariat undertook since the Group met last time in March in New York. She distributed a copy of 1) major areas of activities of respective organization, and 2) planned key events in 2014 by respective organization, which she obtained through earlier e-mail communication with member organizations. The draft design of the web-page where such information will be uploaded was presented. It was agreed that, until further discuss, the web-page will be hosted in the UNSD's knowledge center on CRVS. The Group will be informed when the web-page becomes alive with sufficient information.
- Participating organizations provided, in the form of *tour de table*, updates on their planned activities and main coming up events in the year.
- The group decided to formally name it as "Global CRVS Group".
- Much of the remaining time was spent for discussion to finalize the Terms of Reference of the Group. It was the views of participants that the Group could be more pro-active and ambitious in its objectives, rather than just to meet and exchange information on activities among Members. Hence, converging strategic priorities towards a holistic approach to CRVS was added to the main objectives.
- There were somewhat split views among participants about the participation of the INGOs in the Group. Some argued that INGOs constituted an important and indispensable partner to advance the CRVS systems, while others stressed some explicit criterion should be posed in terms of INGOs' participation in the Group.
- There was a consensus that UNSD serves as the secretariat of the Group, as well as a chair for the first year (2014). The chair will be elected for one year, and rotates among member

organizations.

- The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm. It was agreed that the revised ToR would be circulated again for final review.