

## **Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Group**

Terms of Reference

May 2014

### **Background**

The Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Group is a group coming together to forge stronger alliances among key stakeholders in the area of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the support that they provide to countries. With growing recognition of the value of CRVS to human rights, good governance, and development planning, monitoring and evaluation, there has been renewed interest in strengthening national CRVS systems. CRVS is also emerging as an essential underpinning of the post-2015 development agenda, and considered as an essential element of National Strategies on the Development of Statistics (NSDS).

At the regional and global levels, many efforts continue to be made to advocate and support the improvement of CRVS systems. Inter-governmental regional organizations and development banks have been active in raising awareness and secure Governments' commitment to the issue through the adoption of declarations or resolutions. Individual UN agencies and other international stakeholders have been working toward improvement of CRVS. While a number of regional coordination mechanisms exist, there is a need to better support these mechanisms and improve coordination at the global level, to avoid duplication and provide a holistic and integrated. Hence, close communication and coordination of activities among stakeholders at the global level are key to the systems' improvement. The global community must act together by aligning its actions in providing sustainable support for regions and countries to achieve well-functioning CRVS systems.

The formation of a global CRVS group was discussed on 3 March 2014 in New York at a UN Statistical Commission side-event on global partners for CRVS. The initial meeting brought together key regional and international stakeholders all active in the field of CRVS. The meeting agreed on the need to establish a global mechanism where members can make positive contributions to the improvement of CRVS, in light of respective expertise and areas of concern.

### **Objectives**

The main objectives of the group are to:

- Converge strategic priorities and mandates towards a holistic approach to CRVS, creating an enabling environment for greater collaboration at the national, regional and global levels, and delivering as one
- Exchange information and coordinate global activities among members to complement CRVS momentum at the regional and national levels
- Explore and leverage additional opportunities to accelerate the improvement of CRVS systems

- Advocate for the importance of CRVS as a development imperative

### **Tasks/Activities**

The tasks and activities of this group will focus on combining efforts and work toward global improvements in CRVS. Specific tasks are as follows:

- a. Review and update the activities and programmes to improve CRVS among members
- b. Identify opportunities, challenges, and emerging needs and share best practices, innovations and research to advance CRVS in countries
- c. Create a knowledge platform for sharing information, research, best practices and lessons learned
- d. e. Monitor the completeness of national CR systems, including changes over time
- e. Form task teams to address specific issues related to CRVS, as necessary

### **Membership**

Members are international and regional inter-governmental organizations, committed to the advancement of CRVS programs, represented by senior staff. Members need to be active in the deliberations and activities of the group. The participation of relevant INGOs and other stakeholders may be invited to meetings of the group.

### **Organization**

Secretariat: the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) serves as the Secretariat of the Group.

Chair: The chair will be elected for 1 year, and rotates among member organizations. The chair works closely with UNSD in planning and implementing activities.

### **Organization of work**

The group will work through regular meetings and electronic exchanges of mails. An annual meeting will take place in NY, close to the dates of the United Nations Statistical Commission (usually early March). Additional meeting can be convened on an as needed basis, including to take advantage of other CRVS activities relevant to the group's activities, to be timed back to back with the major global/regional meeting on CRVS. UNSD will maintain the website, where the information on the group's activities can be shared and updated.

### **Expected duration**

The work of the Group is on-going. This TOR will be reviewed when needed.