



Distr.: Limited

AW/CRVS/94/40
28 November 1994

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Original: ENGLISH

**AFRICAN WORKSHOP ON STRATEGIES FOR ACCELERATING THE IMPROVEMENT
OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 5 TO 9 DECEMBER 1994**

**STATISTICAL DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS**

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR AFRICA**

SUGGESTED ISSUES AND POINTS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

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I. THE EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS OF NATIONAL CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

1. How useful was this process? What more could have been done to improve the assessment? Do you have any suggestion for improving the process?
2. Does the evaluation process provide guidance for formulating a national plan of action for accelerating improvement of vital statistics and civil registration systems?

II. IDENTIFY PROBLEMS IN SYSTEMS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS INCLUDING THEIR LINKAGES

3. Discuss some ways that are useful in raising public awareness of civil registration and vital statistics systems. Can a publicity campaign like that used for the population census, help to overcome lack of public awareness? How?

4. Describe problems experienced in coordinating civil registration and vital statistics systems (a national or local levels; between national and local registration or vital statistics units). What are the bottlenecks that hamper completeness and timeliness of these systems?
5. What public services promote greater importance of registration and improve its chances for increased public support of a strategy to strengthen CR/VS systems?

III. OBTAINING SUPPORT OF HIGH LEVEL AUTHORITIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS (CR/VS) SYSTEMS

6. What kinds of problems do you experience and/or anticipate in trying to convince the Ministers and heads of department of the importance of a programme to improve the CR/VS systems?
7. How would you enlist support of high level authorities on a sustained and continuing basis, given the nature of CR/VS systems?

8. Which domestic and external groups and organizations may be useful in obtaining the support of high level authorities?

What role can specific NGOs play?

9. What kind of documentary support would be useful in promoting and assisting in the improvement of the CR/VS programmes in a country?

IV. POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

10. How far can you go to carry out reforms in your country? For example, would it be possible to move local registration offices from the jurisdiction of one ministry to another?

11. It is possible for the national registration agency to control locally hired and paid registration officials? If not, can technical surveillance and assistance to local registrars be enhanced?

12. What other international or regional organizations can help to improve or implement the registration systems?

V. COORDINATION ISSUES AND ARRANGEMENT IN A FEDERATED SYSTEM

13. What are the effective means for coordinating the registration activities that are under the jurisdiction of states or provinces? Central coordinating Office? Committee of state or provincial registrars? or both?

VI. HIGH LEVEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF USERS AND PRODUCERS TO PERIODICALLY REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CR/VS SYSTEMS

14. What roles would a national committee on CR/VS play?
15. Which offices and organizations should be represented on such a committee?
16. At what governmental level can such a committee be constituted?
17. In the event that CR and VS systems are not in the same ministry or department, which office should be given the administrative responsibility for the committee?

VII. THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ACCELERATED IMPROVEMENT OF CR/VS SYSTEMS

18. Do you see any important gaps or additions to the International Programmes?

19. What kinds of handbooks, manuals and technical reports should be prepared by the International Programme for possible adaptation in the countries? What topics should be covered and which ones should have the highest priority?

20. What kinds of technical assistance may be desirable?