

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

1–3 and 5 March 2022

Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Document E/CN.3/2022/9-10 – Report of the Secretary-General on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Statement provided by:

Stats NZ

Overview:

The **report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics on statelessness statistics**, which is presented to the Statistical Commission for discussion. The report presents work undertaken since 2019 to develop international recommendations on statelessness statistics, which will be ready for submission to the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission in March 2023. In particular, the report covers:

- (a) the background to the development of the international recommendations;
- (b) progress made to date by the Expert Group, including the specific challenges identified and the key elements of a proposed statistical framework; and
- (c) the planned way forward to complete the international recommendations.

The second report summarizes the progress made in implementing the **United Nations Legal Identity Agenda** in the midst of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the impact of the pandemic on the reporting and registering of births and deaths and the production of accurate and reliable vital statistics. It also provides information on the activities of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda task force. The Statistical Commission is invited to reiterate its call for Member States to implement the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda as a matter of high priority. In addition, the report provides an overview of initiatives by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Health Organization related to the excess deaths assessment and the work of the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment.

Action Taken by the Statistical Commission:

Report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics on statelessness statistics:

- (a) To provide feedback on key elements of the proposed overarching statistical framework, including definitions and classifications of the population within the scope of the draft international recommendations on statelessness statistics;
- (b) To provide guidance on the plans and priorities of the Expert Group subgroup on statelessness, in particular regarding the further development of the international recommendations on statelessness statistics;
- (c) To request the Expert Group to report back to the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission in March 2023 and present the full international recommendations on statelessness statistics for discussion.

United Nations Legal Identity Agenda

- (a) To reiterate its call from its fifty-first session for Member States to implement the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda, namely, universal registration of all vital events, the production of regular, accurate and comprehensive vital

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statistics and ensuring legal identity for all from birth to death, as a matter of high priority, especially in the light of the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;

- (b) To express concern regarding the negative impact of the pandemic on the availability and quality of vital statistics owing to interruptions in the functioning of national civil registration systems, and urge Member States to designate civil registration as an essential service and conform to international standards;
- (c) To express its support for the work and activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/WHO Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment, welcome its findings and outputs and encourage the Group to continue its work and continue to report to the Commission;
- (d) To request the Statistics Division, in collaboration with UNICEF and UNDP as Co-Chairs, under the auspices of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda task force, to continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic, to document the availability of reliable vital statistics, to monitor and report on the overall implementation of the Agenda and to continue to develop the methodological framework in that respect.

Statement:

Report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics on statelessness statistics:

StatsNZ supports the proposed overarching statistical framework, including definitions and classifications of the population within the scope of the draft international recommendations on statelessness statistics;

StatsNZ supports the plans and priorities of the Expert Group subgroup on statelessness, in particular regarding the further development of the international recommendations on statelessness statistics;

StatsNZ supports the request for the Expert Group to report back to the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission in March 2023 and present the full international recommendations on statelessness statistics for discussion.

United Nations Legal Identity Agenda

StatsNZ supports the call from its fifty-first session for Member States to implement the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda, namely, universal registration of all vital events, the production of regular, accurate and comprehensive vital statistics and ensuring legal identity for all from birth to death, as a matter of high priority, especially in the light of the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;

StatsNZ acknowledges the concern regarding the negative impact of the pandemic on the availability and quality of vital statistics owing to interruptions in the functioning of national civil registration systems, and urge Member States to designate civil registration as an essential service and conform to international standards;

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StatsNZ supports the work and activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/WHO Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment, welcome its findings and outputs and encourage the Group to continue its work and continue to report to the Commission; StatsNZ has worked closely and continues to support the Statistics Division, in collaboration with UNICEF and UNDP as Co-Chairs, under the auspices of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda task force, to continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic, to document the availability of reliable vital statistics, to monitor and report on the overall implementation of the agenda and to continue to develop the methodological framework in that respect.

Submitted on:

2/25/2022