

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: civil registration, vital statistics and statelessness statistics

Document E/CN.3/2022/10 – Report of Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics on statelessness statistics

Statement provided by:

Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistics

Statement:

The Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistics welcomes the Report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics on statelessness statistics as a timely contribution to the improvement of quality and increased availability of data on stateless persons.

Although, Sri Lanka is an island and no boundary issues, it has experience with the internal displaced persons (IDP) and Stateless persons since 1948 when received independence to the country. According to the Department of Immigration and Emigration in Sri Lanka the history of the country shows enough evidences about the IDP's and stateless persons. The Government of Sri Lanka has consistently taken various measures to grant citizenship to stateless persons. The Parliament of Sri Lanka has also legally declared that all those who have fulfilled the required qualifications will automatically become citizens of Sri Lanka. Accordingly, Sri Lanka is constantly on the lookout for "stateless persons" and is constantly looking into the implementation of the legal framework to establish their rights.

Moreover, Sri Lanka strongly supports the initiative to develop International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics and applauds the progress made so far. If successful, these recommendations will serve as a crucial asset for countries to address some of the methodological challenges associated with the production of data on statelessness, including reliable estimates of stateless populations and related categories.

Looking forward, we encourage the group to further strengthen the proposed statistical framework in order to ensure it is operational. We consider the proposed definitions as a crucial step towards establishing a common language that allow us to produce quality, comparable statistics on statelessness, but there is a need to explore further how data sources should be best adapted to accurately capture data using these definitions. Importantly, technical and coordination recommendations with regards to the usage of administrative data would be important to be comprehensively addressed in the forthcoming recommendations. In addition, sex and age disaggregated data will need attention to enhance national understanding as to how women and children are specifically affected.

Through our participation in the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS), the Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistics has continuously supported the effort to develop and adopt common standards and definitions to improve the quality and increase the availability of statistics on stateless populations. We are encouraged by the progress that has been made since the

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work was initiated in 2019 and express our commitment to support the next steps in successfully finalizing the recommendations for consideration at the next session of the UN Statistical Commission.

Submitted on:

2/17/2022