

Ministerial conference on civil registration and vital statistics in Africa

9 – 13 February 2015

Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire

Promoting the use of civil registration and vital statistics in support of good governance

The Third Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration is, for the first time, being organized under the auspices of the African Union Commission and will bring together African ministers responsible for civil registration and health, heads of civil registration and national statistics offices, representatives of regional and international organizations, relevant UN agencies, and representatives of local and international NGOs, to discuss and agree on ways of developing civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems, with a view to further strengthening and facilitating good governance across the African continent.

The Conference

The five-day conference will consist of two segments (see below) and will give participants an exclusive insight into the next steps that the African continent needs to and will take to promote and implement sustainable and effective CRVS systems.

<i>9 – 11 February 2015</i> Expert Group Meeting Conduct technical deliberations on various aspects of CRVS in Africa, culminating in draft resolutions and recommendations that will be presented to the Ministerial Forum.	<i>12 – 13 February 2015</i> Ministerial Forum Take stock of the progress made in implementing the regional CRVS programme and provide policy guidance on the next steps for CRVS in Africa.
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Plenary and breakout sessions will be held around how CRVS systems can advance good governance in Africa, primarily through facilitating the realization of human rights, improving service delivery and providing vital statistics for development planning. The Conference will focus on these six thematic areas, all identified as priorities for the region.

Role of the health sector in CRVS

ICT in improving CRVS

National identity management and CRVS

CRVS in conflict and emergency situations

Gender and CRVS

Children's rights and CRVS

For more information on how you can attend, contribute to and get involved in the Conference, please visit the conference website at: www.uneca.org/crmc3

Objectives	Expected outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Review the progress made by countries against the commitments made at the past two Conferences and also against the targets set in the APAI-CRVS medium-term plan → Deliberate on the best policy and programmatic actions for the next phase of implementation of the regional CRVS medium-term plan, to ensure sustainable capacity development across the continent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Learn from CRVS successes and challenges across the continent → Develop a “good governance” approach to CRVS that will be widely appreciated and recognized → Get informed and structured advice on how to develop effective policies and programmes that will lead to the establishment of efficient and sustainable CRVS systems in Africa.

The story so far

What is civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS)?

According to the United Nations, civil registration is the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events of the population in accordance with the legal requirements in each country.

Vital statistics constitute the collection of statistics on vital events in a lifetime of a person as well as the relevant characteristics of the events themselves and of the person(s) concerned.

What is the current situation in Africa?

Millions of people across the continent remain unregistered, and key life events remain unknown to Governments, limiting their ability to protect their citizens or meet the future needs of their populations through accurate planning. CRVS remain on the margins of African Governments’ policies and programmes; the aim of this Conference is to change this.

What has been done so far?

This is the Third Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration. The two previous Conferences led to the creation of a regional approach to policy, programmes and frameworks, as detailed below.

<p>8-12 Aug 2010</p>	<p>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p> <p>CRVS identified as a key development imperative for Africa; highlighted the need to improve CRVS through a holistic and coordinated approach</p>	<p>3-7 Sept 2012</p>	<p>Durban, South Africa</p> <p>Envisioned CRVS as a vehicle to accelerate regional integration; endorsed the Africa Programme on Accelerated improvement of CRVS (APAI-CRVS) – providing a policy and programmatic framework for improvement of CRVS in Africa; resolved to undertake comprehensive assessment and develop national action plans in each country for sustainable improvement of CRVS</p>
<p>9-13 Feb 2015</p>	<p>Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire</p> <p>Will take stock of the progress made in APAI-CRVS since 2010; will help envision the linkage between CRVS and good governance and provide policy and programmatic guidance for its realization</p>		

