

FIRST INTERNATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE SEOUL STATEMENT

Preamble

1. We the participants from Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean Regions assembled at the First International Identity Management Conference held on 23-25 September 2014 in Seoul, Republic of Korea;
2. Bearing in mind that the main objective of the Conference was to create synergies, promote South-South, regional and international collaboration and disseminate specialized knowledge to improve civil registries and civil identification systems;
3. Recalling the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, being the founding principles of an individual's right to an identity;
4. Reaffirming the commitment of the United Nations (UN) member states made in 2000 to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 in which data on some of the indicators that monitor the MDG progress are compiled and provided by civil registration and vital statistics systems;
5. Taking into account that the Post-2015 Development Agenda should consider civil registration as fundamental to legal identity and all the rights that it confers on the individual and that legal identity is in turn crucial for inclusive social and economic development;
6. Taking into account that the Post-2015 Development Agenda is to leave no one behind and it is, therefore, necessary to constructively and deliberately close the identity gap by eliminating invisibility;
7. Recognizing that Civil Registration is a basis for civil identification of individuals and that an organic link between the two is critical;
8. Recognizing the centrality of evidence of identity of breeder documents such as birth certificates, among others, for identification, and further recognizing their contribution to national and international security, including facilitation of secure international travel and border control as well as secure public and private sector transactions;
9. Recognizing that an identity facilitates citizens' access to social services and, therefore, it is crucial that the identity management cycle and the identity infrastructure are effectively managed and secured to ensure public confidence and trust;

10. Noting the progress and achievements made by the Asia and Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean regions in improving civil registration systems, vital statistics systems and civil identification systems;
11. Acknowledging the contribution of international development partners, regional organizations and bilateral cooperation as well as the role of the private sector and Non-Government Organizations in improving civil registration, civil identification and vital statistics;

We hereby:

1. Commend the progress and achievements made by countries in improving civil identification management systems.
2. Acknowledge the need for comprehensive national identity policies to support decision making tools as well as for the protection of all individuals, enabling them to access their civil, legal, social and political rights, as well as the services for which they are eligible.
3. Acknowledge the urgency of universal birth and death registration as a foundation for secure identity and identification systems that will strengthen vital statistics systems and underpin public sector policies and programs.
4. Encourage Governments to put in place the necessary policies and legal framework on personal data protection and privacy in civil identification management systems.
5. Recognize the need for development of international principles and recommendations on linkages of civil registration and national identification systems.
6. Encourage Governments to strengthen and facilitate greater coordination between national identity and civil registration authorities and other key stakeholders in managing one's identity and to ensure effective registration of vital events.
7. Urge Governments to intensify their efforts in developing and implementing a holistic approach for the establishment of robust identification management systems.
8. Encourage countries to undertake in-depth assessments and put in place national action plans with identified resources aimed at accelerating improvements in civil registration and vital statistics and identity management.

9. Acknowledge the need for interoperability between civil registration, civil identification and other systems to enhance service delivery to individuals and to ensure timely, accurate and reliable data for decision making.
10. Urge the development of civil registration and identity management systems as key tools in reducing risks during disasters by contributing to disaster management and response.
11. Welcome mechanisms such as the upcoming Ministerial level conferences in Asia Pacific and Africa for Governments to commit to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems and as appropriate identity management.
12. Urge Governments to pursue at appropriate levels the call for the decade 2015-2024 to be declared a decade for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.
13. Call upon development partners to continue to support efforts of governments in capacity building and resource mobilization and the harmonization of strategies to strengthen civil registration and identification systems.
14. Commend the Government and the people of the Republic of Korea for the generosity and warm hospitality accorded to the participants and for successfully hosting the Conference.
15. Commend the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank for organizing the Conference and urge the institutions to sustain the process through follow-up actions, including the organization of a second conference.

Seoul,
25 September, 2014