

**Resolutions of the Eighth Africa Symposium on Statistical Development
Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, 27–29 November 2012**

1. the representatives of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Civil Registration Authorities (CRAs) of African States, supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Health Organization, Health Metrics Network, the government of South Africa, and other development partners, gathered in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire from 27 to 29 November 2012 during the 8th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD,) under the theme "Standardization of Causes of Death and Statistical Classifications in Africa"; and specific topic "Improving Death Registration and Certification of Causes of Death in Africa";
2. Appreciating the government of Cote D'Ivoire for the successful hosting of the 8th ASSD and the hospitality of its people;
3. Acknowledging the positive contribution of the first six sessions of the ASSD towards the progress made by African countries in conducting the 2010 round of population and housing censuses (2010 RPHC) and encouraging the remaining 16 countries to conduct their censuses by end of 2014;
4. Recognising the need for African countries to present census results in more user-friendly way through the use of modern dissemination methods and tools so as to support the policy makers for evidence-based planning;
5. Noting the continued commitment of the African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration as articulated in the declarations made in their second conference in Durban in September 2012 for accelerated improvement of CRVS in Africa;
6. Recognising that the Conference of Ministers on Civil Registration has now been established as a standing regional forum for guidance and oversight of the APAI-CRVS;
7. Further noting the specific commitments made by the Ministers in the second conference in conducting comprehensive assessments in the country and development of country action plan;

8. Noting with concern low levels of death registration and certification of causes of death in African countries and acknowledging the importance and appropriateness of the theme for the 8th ASSD;
9. Appreciating the effort of the Secretariat in presenting the approach and processes for improving death registration and causes of death through relevant papers;
10. Recognising the recent verbal autopsy tool developed by WHO for routine CRVS system;
11. Recognising the need for establishing a high level coordination mechanism at the country level to implement the APAI-CRVS through a coordinated and integrated manner;
12. Acknowledging the contributions of young statisticians in the development of statistics in Africa;
13. Recognising the progress made in implementation of the recommendations of the 7th ASSD, acknowledge specifically the remarkable contribution and support of the Core Group in general and the joint engagement of the ASSD and CRVS Secretariat in particular;

Hereby recommend that:

14. The implementation of the resolutions of the 7th ASSD should be continued;
15. Countries should develop clear processes for improving death registration and certification of causes of death depending on the national context, including socio-cultural and religious situations;
16. Countries should identify a clear set of activities in their plan for improvement of death registration and recording of causes of death in a time bound manner;
17. Countries should use local government and non-government networks to obtain death reports for registration;
18. Countries should establish clear procedures for issuance of burial permit contingent on reporting of death and causes of death to ensure that the information on death is captured for registration before the burial;

19. Countries should build the capacity of the physicians to correctly record causes of death for all deaths occurring in health institutions through a clear training and advocacy plan;
20. Countries should adopt and use WHO standards for reporting, coding and assigning causes of death;
21. Countries should test the verbal autopsy tool developed by WHO in different settings and develop clear standard operating procedures for routinely using the tool for recoding causes of deaths occurring outside health facilities;
22. The CRAs, NSOs and health departments are all main stakeholders in improvement process of death registration and causes of death information and have to work together to develop the standard operating procedures and ensure that the same is implemented;
23. NSOs should devise appropriate statistical data collection, compilation and dissemination processes from CRVS systems and develop standard data quality monitoring and evaluation techniques and procedures in line with regional and international recommendations and standards;
24. Countries should ensure allocation of adequate budget for day-to-day CRVS operations and mobilise and coordinate resources from development partners and private sector for accelerated reform, innovations, capacity building to support the implementation of the CRVS action plan;
25. Countries should establish high-level coordination committee to provide guidance and oversight to the implementation of their CRVS programme as recommended by the Second Conference of Ministers;
26. Countries should review the civil registration and other relevant laws to include provision that ensures that all deaths occurring in health facilities are certified before burial;
27. Countries should take appropriate legal, administrative and operational measures in certifying causes of deaths that occur outside health facilities, depending on country context;
28. NSOs should embed within their National Strategies for the Development of Statistics plan a comprehensive capacity building plan for the Young African Statisticians where such does not exist;

29. NSOs should support and guide the establishment of the ISibalo Young African Statisticians Country Chapters;

30. African statistical training institutions in collaboration with NSOs and CRAs should develop appropriate courses on death registration and certification of causes of death as part of CRVS improvement initiative in the African context engaging public health and other relevant training and research institutions;

31. Young statisticians should be part of the regional training of pool of experts and be engaged in conducting country assessments;

We hereby support and commit to be actively engaged in:

32. The implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) and the related regional Medium-term Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Plan;

33. The inception paper presented by the Secretariat on the death registration with amendment made during the meeting be endorsed. However, the situation from one country to another is different; therefore the flow charts in the paper should convey a general work process and be left to the countries to draw up their own work processes;

We hereby commit

34. To undertake comprehensive assessment and develop national plan of action for accelerated improvement of CRVS;

35. To implement the proposed time schedule for training of pool of experts that will assist in conducting country level comprehensive assessments followed by the development of national plans;

36. To support the regional CRVS Secretariat established at the ECA in its effort in promoting the regional policies and programmes on CRVS;

We hereby urge:

37. The ASSD Secretariat to continue the study on the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and share lessons learnt, challenges, threats and risks with countries;

38. UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR,WHO, HMN and other partners to coordinate their intervention and continue their support to the implementation of the APAI-CRVS at regional and national levels;

39. WHO, HMN, In-Depth and other relevant partners to support the country plans on innovation and capacity building for improvement of death registration and causes of death;

40. The representative of health ministries from countries be invited for ASSD as they are one of the most important stakeholders in the CRVS programme;

41. Countries to support the Knowledge Hub at the Secretariat as per the directive of ministers in the 2nd meeting;

We further:

42. Request Mr Carlos Lopes to continue the support and enhance ECA's role in realising the visions and goals of the continental CRVS programme.

43. Request the new Chairperson of the AUC, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma to convey our acknowledgement to the former Chairperson, Mr Jean Ping for his support in establishing the ministerial conference under the AUC framework as permanent regional platform.

Vote of thanks:

44. We express our deepest appreciation to His Excellency Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan for gracing the meeting with his presence and stimulating speech;

45. We look forward to our next 9th ASSD meeting to be hosted by the Government of Guinea Bissau;

46. We note the request of the Ugandan delegation to host the 10th ASSD meeting.