

**Resolutions of the Ninth Africa Symposium on Statistical Development  
Gaborone, Botswana, 17-21 February 2014**

1. We, 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 (WHO), the government of South Africa, and other development partners, gathered in Gaborone, Botswana from 17 to 21 February 2014 during the 9<sup>th</sup> Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD,) under the theme **“promoting the use of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in support of good governance in Africa”**
2. Appreciating the successful hosting of the 9<sup>th</sup> ASSD by the Republic of Botswana and the hospitality of its people;
3. Appreciating the efforts being made by member states and development partners in implementation of the commitments made in the past ASSD meetings that have focused on CRVS, and the CRVS ministerial conference resolutions;
4. Commending the efforts taken by various countries in the coordination of the different CRVS stakeholders, specifically the close collaboration and coordination between the Civil Registration Authorities (CRAs), National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and Health Ministries;
5. Appreciating the commitment made by development partners, specifically the regional Core Group to intensify its current efforts of supporting the regional CRVS Secretariat and member states, by availing the necessary human and financial resources;
6. Recognizing the critical role that CRVS is expected to play in the realization of the post 2015 Global Developmental Agenda, by bringing about data revolution in Africa, in the context of the statement made in the meeting that there will not be "data revolution without CRVS";
7. Recognising, that population data from Census are of limited value for measurement indicators of progress during the inter-censal periods, unless supplemented by “flow-statistics” from CRVS systems, specifically for population estimation and projection;
8. Acknowledging the need to have continental standards for countries to measure their performance in CRVS;

9. Taking note that countries have been slow in implementing the various recommendations on CRVS including the ministerial resolution on CRVS assessments;
10. Appreciating that through this Symposium, we have gained a wide range of knowledge, on the fundamental link between CRVS and good governance, civil registration legal evidences as source documents in issuing secured national identification documents;
11. Appreciating and commending the contribution of the 9th ASSD in stimulating thinking and worthwhile discussions on the status and progress of Africa's statistical development, specifically through the seminar on the book titled: "*Poor numbers how we are misled by African development statistics and what to do about it*" by Prof. Morten Javern
12. Acknowledging need for training and research in the area of CRVS in African academic institutions as has been demonstrated aptly by Makerere University
13. Taking note that statistical training centers on the continent have not sufficiently engaged in building knowledge for statistical development in Africa, specifically in the context of the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSa), including knowledge on CRVS
14. Recognizing the unprecedented success in the conduct of Population and Housing Censuses in the 2010 round in terms of the count of countries in comparison with past two decades, operations and management, use of technology and dissemination of results;
15. Commending the Republic of Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of Congo for committing to run their census in the 2020 round in the efforts to catch up with 2010 round, Also commending the Republic of Angola for the commitment to run a Census in May 2014, after four decades of no count.
16. Recognizing the importance of statistics in the context of the framework of the Africa's agenda (vision? Please check with official records??)2063

**Hereby Commit to:**

17. Continue our efforts in the implementation of the resolutions of the 7th and 8th ASSD meetings;
18. Intensify our efforts in delivering results for the 3<sup>rd</sup> CRVS ministerial conference that will be held in October 2014 in Cote d'Ivoire, specifically the recommendation referring to each

country conducting comprehensive CRVS assessment studies followed by development of a plan;

**Hereby recommend that:**

19. Countries that have not yet initiated or undertaken the assessments, shall with support if required, from the CRVS secretariat complete/initiate their assessments and report to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial conference in response to the ministerial directives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference ;
20. Development partners shall support the organisation of the forthcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration;
21. 21. Member states shall take note of the urgency to take concrete action in registering all vital events pertaining to refugees, IDP and other marginalised populations as an integral part of their CRVS systems;
22. The CRVS Secretariat shall complete the work started in creating a functional continental CRVS web based knowledge management platform;
23. The CRVS Secretariat shall develop a position paper for discussion on CRVS and identity management for the Ministerial Conference in October 2014;
24. Academic training institutions and Statistical Training Centres on the continent shall take the initiative and responsibility of building the relevant knowledge on the statistical priority areas of the SHaSA including knowledge on CRVS
25. Member states shall continue to build the capacities of young African statisticians, by engaging them in undertaking CRVS comprehensive assessments in countries, the development of national plans of action and implementation of these plans,
26. The CRVS Secretariat shall develop innovative methods to enable countries to benchmark themselves against continental performance standards.
27. Member states shall avail sufficient technical and financial resources for the development of CRVS systems in view of the vital role of the systems in maximising the usability of data from Censuses as well as CRVSs;
28. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa as per the ministers directive during their 2<sup>nd</sup> conference shall take action to institutionalise the regional CRVS Secretariat in order to sustain and coordinate the implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

29. The Economic Commission for Africa shall hasten the process of making a substantive appointment to fill the position of the Director of the African Centre for Statistics
30. Member states shall continue with the current momentum in undertaking of the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses;
31. Countries shall express and ensure that their views are well reflected in the 3rd Revision of the Principles and & Recommendations on Population and Housing censuses. In this respect,, countries shall hold discussions on the African position during the regional workshop that will be held in March 2014 in Pretoria, South Africa
32. African statisticians shall present the programme of statistics and products at the Abuja ministerial meeting consistent with the African Union integration agenda and the priority statistical focus areas of the SHaSA. .
33. Member states shall continue with the process of ratifying the African Charter on Statistics, to serve as a policy framework for statistical development in Africa, especially the production, management and dissemination of statistical data among these being data from CRVS
34. The ASSD shall endeavor to host similar fora in the ensuing symposia, with an objective of providing a forum for peer review and addressing emerging issues on statistical development on the continent

We request:

The Government of Botswana to be the focal point for mobilizing countries and providing leadership for development of Civil Registration on the continent

**Vote of thanks:**

35. We express our deepest appreciation to His Honor the Vice President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr.Ponatshego Kedikilwe for gracing the meeting with his presence and stimulating speech;
36. We also express our appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Mr. Edwin Jenamiso Batshu and the Honourable Minister of Finance and Planning Mr. Kenneth Matambo and their team of officers for hosting the symposium

37. We look forward to our next 10<sup>th</sup> ASSD meeting to be hosted by the Government of Uganda