



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



**Vital
Strategies**



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Resilient nations.*

2024 Review of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade in Asia and the Pacific: Digitalization as a key enabler to get every one in the picture

Side Event of the 80th Commission for ESCAP

26 April 2024 (12:45-13:45 UTC+7)

Concept Note

Organizer:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Co-organizers:

Vital Strategies, World Bank, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Registration:

In-person participation: All in-person participants must complete the registration form to attend the 80th session of the Commission via (1) [Indico](#) and (2) this [registration link](#) by 15 April.

For Indico, please register using the option “**Registration for Others (Side events, Exhibition, etc.)**”, choose your Representation Type as “**Non-ESCAP Meeting Participants**” and choose your side event. Those who do not register on Indico will NOT be able to access the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.

Online participation: All online participants must complete the registration form to join via MS Teams using this [link](#) by 15 April.



Statistics

Background:

Digitalization is a key enabler of sustainable, inclusive and resilient CRVS system and a digitized CRVS system can provide the backbone for eGovernment. Increasingly, Member States initiate rollout of national ID cards and establish digital legal identity systems as part of Digital Public Infrastructure. The linkage between such initiative and CRVS needs to be ensured to develop a safe, comprehensive and interoperable legal identity ecosystem.

As stated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and expanded upon by the Un Legal Identity Agenda¹, civil registration provides the basis for legal identity. Further, good quality vital statistics based on civil registration records plays a crucial role in monitoring progress towards the SDGs. In fact, 67 of the 230 SDG indicators can be effectively measured by data from a well-functioning CRVS system, and they cover 12 of the 17 SDGs².

In 2014, Ministers from the region unanimously proclaimed the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024) to guide countries towards achieving “universal and responsive CRVS that facilitate the realization of [individuals’] rights and support good governance, health and development”³. Although significant progress has been made during the Decade, universal registration of vital events is yet to be achieved and millions of people are born and die without any legal tender of their existence – this has been termed the scandal of invisibility.

In 2021, Ministers adopted the [Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive CRVS](#) identifying digitalization as the key to unlock more inclusive and resilient CRVS systems.

In accordance with the Ministerial Declaration and Resolution 71/14⁴, ESCAP is supporting the 2024 review of the CRVS Decade. The review is crucial for assessing progress against the goals and targets under the Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia and the

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/legal-identity-agenda/documents/UNCT-Guidelines.pdf>

² Mills, Samuel, Carla Abouzahr, Jane Kim, Bahie M. Rassekh, and Deborah Sarpong. 2017. [Civil Registration and Vital Statistics \(CRVS\) for Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

³ [Ministerial Declaration to “get every one in the picture” in Asia and the Pacific](#).

⁴ [ESCAP Resolution 71/14](#).



Pacific and provide information required for Ministers to decide on a potential extension of the CRVS Decade at the 2025 Ministerial Conference.

Objective:

The side event will facilitate discussion on the importance of digitalization to achieve universal registration of vital events. It will further, discuss ongoing efforts of countries to advance the digitalization of simplified and proactive CRVS business processes as part of government wide digital transformation efforts. Participants will also learn about ongoing integration of CRVS systems with national ID systems in the region. Further, the side event will provide participants with an overview of the process and timeline for the 2024 review of the CRVS Decade, the inputs needed from countries as well as initial plans for the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS to be held 24-26 June 2025. ESCAP will also collate insights derived from the side event to feed into the drafting of the review report.

Format of the event:

The event will be organized in a hybrid setting with participants attending in-person at the United Nations Conference Centre and online participants joining via Teams. The modality of the event will be a combination of presentations and question-and-answer session. The speakers will include representatives from Vital Strategies, World Bank, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). They will share their experiences with digitalizing their CRVS systems.



Programme

Introduction and opening	5 min 12:45 – 12:50
Ms. Rachael Beaven Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP	
Presentations	30 min 12:50 – 13:20
Moderator: Ms. Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP	
Achieving Inclusive Digital Transformation with CRVS Business Process Improvements	
Mr. Romain Santon Regional Deputy Director, CRVS Improvement Programme, Vital Strategies	
The Importance of CRVS for Digital Identity	
Mr. Jonathan Marskell Senior Program Officer, Identification for Development (ID4D) Initiative, World Bank	
A Human Rights Perspective: Linkages with CRVS and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)	
Ms. Belinda Hlatshwayo M&E Officer – Business and Human Rights Asia, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub	
Q&A	10 mins 13:20 – 13:30
Presentation: Overview of the 2024 review of the CRVS Decade: Process and timeline and Q&A	10 mins 13:30 – 13:40
Ms. Tanja Sejersen Statistician, Statistics Division, ESCAP	



Closing	5 mins 13:40 – 13:45
Ms. Petra Nahmias Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP	

Virtual meeting through Microsoft Teams at the link below:

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

<https://shorturl.at/msG24>

Meeting ID: 318 691 939 101

Passcode: egNcbn

Join with a video conferencing device

unitevc@m.webex.com

Video ID: 129 735 034 7

[Alternate VTC dialing instructions](#)



In person registration [indico](#) and [here](#)

Online registration [here](#) or via QR code



For information, please contact Mr. Sovannaroth Tey, Associate Statistician, Statistics Division, ESCAP at sovannaroth.tey@un.org.

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