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**Conference of African Ministers  
Responsible for Civil Registration**

Sixth session

Expert segment

Addis Ababa, 24–28 October 2022

Item 2 of the provisional agenda for the expert segment\*\*

**Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda  
and programme of work**

**Annotated provisional agenda (expert segment)**

**1. Registration**

Participants who have registered in advance through the Indico portal will retrieve their identity passes at the delegate's desk located at the United Nations Conference Centre upon presenting their passport or other national identification document. The identity pass must be displayed visibly by all participants throughout the course of the meeting. While participants will be able to retrieve the identity pass on the day of the opening, they are encouraged to do so as soon as they arrive in Ethiopia to avoid queues on the opening day.

**2. Joint opening of the meetings of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, and the Statistical Commission for Africa**

There will be a joint opening of the sixth session of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, the eighth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, and the eighth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa, which will be held in parallel during the same week at the United Nations Conference Centre. Following the joint opening, participants in the three meetings will move to their respective conference rooms. Information about the conference room for the expert segment will be available at the venue.

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\* Reissued for technical reasons on 21 October 2022.

\*\* CRMC/6/EXP/2022/1.



**3. Opening of the expert segment** (agenda item 1)

A keynote statement will be made to mark the opening of the expert segment of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration.

**4. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work** (agenda item 2)

The composition of the Bureau will be announced following consultations with heads of delegations. The Bureau will comprise five members: one Chair, three Vice-Chairs and one Rapporteur, elected on the basis of equitable geographic representation. The composition of the Bureau of the previous session is set out in the annex to the present document. The Chair of the outgoing Bureau (Zambia) will hand over the functions of the office to the incoming Chair. A statement on the activities of the outgoing Bureau will be made by the outgoing Chair. The incoming Chair will make brief remarks, then preside over the proceedings of the sixth session of the Conference.

Delegates will be invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda and draft programme of work, and to propose amendments as deemed necessary.

The Bureau may decide to establish an ad hoc working group to assist in the compilation of the draft report and the formulation of draft resolutions. The working group would have 10 members, comprising 2 members from each of the 5 subregional groups, normally drawn from the membership of the outgoing and incoming Bureaux. The working group would be chaired by the first Vice-Chair of the incoming Bureau.

**5. Ten years after the establishment of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems and eight years to 2030 – Are we on track to realizing our civil registration and vital statistics commitments?** (agenda item 3)

A panel discussion bringing together countries and development partners will be held to reflect on the progress made by countries in the development of civil registration and vital statistics systems in the past 10 years of implementation of the Africa Programme. The panellists will reflect on key achievements and challenges and identify strategies and key actions that should be taken to accelerate progress in the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems in the coming eight years leading up to 2030.

**6. Statutory issues** (agenda item 4)

Under this agenda item, the secretariat and the African Union Commission will present the various statutory issues relating to the mandate of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration. The experts may wish to consider and provide recommendations to the Conference for further guidance and action, as appropriate. The following statutory reports will be brought to the attention of the experts:

**(a) Report on progress in the implementation of ministerial resolutions of the fifth session of the Conference**

The document contains summaries of the progress made in the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration during its fifth session. The experts in attendance will be invited to review the progress made

and provide the secretariat with further guidance for the effective implementation of the resolutions.

**(b) Report on the evaluation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (2010–2020)**

The report presents the findings of an evaluation of the performance of the Africa Programme for the period 2010–2020. The report is based on the feedback received from countries and partners of the regional civil registration and vital statistics core group, based on a survey that was conducted in 2022. The report highlights the areas in which the Africa Programme did well, where it failed, and the key challenges faced in its implementation. In addition, the report provides recommendations in several thematic areas of focus as the Programme enters into its second phase of implementation. The experts will be invited to review the report and provide guidance and comments on the performance of the Africa Programme.

**(c) Report of the regional core group on civil registration and vital statistics interventions in the period 2018–2022**

A statement highlighting the main achievements of the regional core group during the period 2018–2022 will be made. The statement will provide a synoptic overview of the major events and activities undertaken in response to the broad mandate of regional core group partners to support the implementation of the Africa Programme. The experts will be invited to provide guidance and comments on the activities of the Africa Programme secretariat and the regional core group.

**(d) Report of the African Union Commission on the No Name Campaign**

The report highlights the No Name Campaign and its strategy and approach for transforming national civil registration systems, its theory of change and opportunities for national and continent-wide adoption, replication and scaling up. The No Name Campaign is a systematic and results-focused campaign aimed at transforming national birth registration systems to achieve universal birth registration by 2030, thereby providing a legal identity to all. The campaign has adopted three interwoven high-leverage and high-impact approaches – interoperability, decentralization and digitalization – as reflected in the integrated digital delivery framework. The campaign is country-focused and data driven, and draws on the collaborative capacity of all partners.

The experts will be invited to review the report and provide guidance and comments on the activities of the No Name Campaign.

**(e) Report of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention on a continental framework for strengthening mortality surveillance**

The continental framework is intended to provide guidance to African countries on actions needed to develop and enhance holistic mortality information systems that capture all deaths, and causes of death where feasible, to address the chronic lack of accurate mortality data, which are needed for public health decision-making. The continental framework is envisaged to serve as a catalyst for achieving regional and global development goals by promoting improved mortality data completeness and accuracy among Member States.

The experts will be invited to review the report and to provide guidance and comments on the activities of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

**7. Assessing progress in the development of civil registration and vital statistics systems in the region: How can Africa accelerate progress in meeting regional and international commitments?** (agenda item 5)

Under this agenda item, a review of the performance of civil registration and vital statistics systems on the continent will be featured, with respect to regional and international commitments in the areas of birth registration, death registration, and marriage and divorce registration. The status of progress in relation to the production of vital statistics will be reviewed in the afternoon session of day two (see agenda item 9), when the Directors General of national statistical offices join the expert segment.

**(a) Birth registration**

The United Nations Children’s Fund will report on the status of birth registration in Africa, drawing on qualitative and quantitative information on progress made at the regional and country levels. The presentation will highlight some of the major bottlenecks that countries face in birth registration, and will provide recommendations on how countries could accelerate progress in this regard. That will be followed by two country presentations on best practices in improving birth registration.

**(b) Death registration and recording causes of death**

The World Health Organization will report on the status of death registration and the collection of cause-of-death information in Africa. The presentation will highlight some of the major bottlenecks that countries face in realizing progress and provide recommendations on how countries could accelerate progress. This will be followed by two country presentations on best practices in improving death registration.

**(c) Marriage and divorce registration**

The United Nations Population Fund will report on the status of registration and certification of marriages and divorces on the continent. The presentation will demonstrate the importance of marriage and divorce registration to ensuring access to rights and social services. It will also highlight the neglected nature of this area of work, noting the limited attention it has been given by the international development community in recent years when compared with birth and death registration. The presentation will draw attention to the need to build the capacity of civil registration offices to register marriages and divorces, and highlight the need for countries to prioritize this area of work within the Africa Programme.

The report will be followed by two country presentations on best practices in improving marriage and divorce registration. In addition, a video presentation highlighting efforts made to develop the civil registration and vital statistics system in the Gambia (entitled “A CRVS visit to the Gambia”) will be played to conclude day one of the expert segment.

The experts may wish to consider the matter brought to their attention, including draft resolutions, and to provide the secretariat and partners with guidance on future work.

**8. Civil registration in humanitarian contexts: Building on experience gained during the coronavirus disease pandemic (agenda item 6)**

Under this agenda item, the Economic Commission for Africa and the World Health Organization will present country experiences and key lessons learned in strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems, drawing on experience gained since the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. This will be followed by a presentation by the United Nations Children's Fund on recommendations for improving the resilience of systems and services to ensure continuous, permanent and universal registration of births and deaths in a crisis situation. The recommendations are based on recently released guidelines addressed to Member States to guide country strategies, in particular, but also to development partners for their support, as relevant.

The experts may wish to consider the matter brought to their attention, including draft resolutions, and to provide the secretariat and partners with guidance on future work.

**9. Role of the health sector in building civil registration and vital statistics systems and the benefits of those systems for the health agenda (agenda item 7)**

Under this agenda item, the World Bank will give a presentation on the opportunities available to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems through engaging the health sector. Engaging the health sector is deemed to be one of the most high-yield yet practical and achievable strategies for accelerating progress in building civil registration and vital statistics systems on the continent. The presentation will highlight relevant best practices across countries in various parts of the world. This will be followed by two country presentations on experiences in engaging the health sector to support the registration of vital events.

The experts may wish to consider the matter brought to their attention, including draft resolutions, and to provide the secretariat and partners with guidance on future work.

**10. Parallel sessions (agenda item 8)**

**(a) Digitalization of civil registration and vital statistics systems**

During this session, participants will discuss recommended practices in the digitalization of civil registration and vital statistics systems. This will include discussion of the essential features of information technology solutions, the pros and cons of several software licensing options, including custom-developed software, commercial "off-the-shelf" software, and open-source software; and the pros and cons of various software services and hosting options and recommended steps for the procurement of civil registration and vital statistics software. A presentation by Vital Strategies and the Economic Commission for Africa will be made on best practices in the digitalization of statistical systems, followed by a general discussion.

**(b) Leadership, budget advocacy and sustainability in civil registration and vital statistics systems**

During this session, participants will share experiences and best practices in leadership and budget advocacy in relation to civil registration and vital statistics systems. Despite their importance as core administrative functions of governments, such systems are weak and underfunded in many countries. Good leadership in that regard is therefore crucial to ensuring that the systems fulfil their core functions and that the records and data they produce are

available and appropriately accessible across government agencies. Mobilizing strong leadership and political support for civil registration and vital statistics systems is crucial in building well-functioning systems and ensuring that there is adequate domestic financing for their sustainability. This will be followed by two country presentations and a general discussion.

**(c) Legislation as an enabler of efficient civil registration and vital statistics systems**

During this session, the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat will provide an overview of the recently developed guidelines on a legislative framework for civil registration, vital statistics and identity management. This overview will be followed by two country presentations on recent experiences in revising legislation on civil registration and vital statistics, along with a general discussion.

**(d) Building integrated civil registration and vital statistics and digital identity systems**

This session will focus on the establishment of integrated civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems. The session will feature an overview of the recommended integrated framework (based on recommendations of the United Nations legal identity agenda task force), along with a discussion of the pros and cons of integrated systems versus non-integrated systems. The session will also feature an overview of the continental digital identity strategy and recommendations for stronger collaboration between civil registration and digital identity management authorities in the development of harmonized systems. A presentation will be made by the Economic Commission for Africa, which will be followed by a general discussion.

**11. Assessing progress in the production of civil registration-based vital statistics on the continent (agenda item 9)**

Under this agenda item, the United Nations Population Fund will report on progress made in the production of vital statistics in Africa, highlighting key achievements, challenges faced by countries, and resources available to support countries in this regard. The presentation will advocate the production of vital statistics reports by all countries, first, as a step towards making the status of civil registration systems better known to governments, and second, to make civil registration data available to governments for planning and policy-making. This will be followed by two country presentations on best practices in the production of vital statistics from civil registration records.

The experts may wish to consider the matter brought to their attention, including draft resolutions, and to provide the secretariat and partners with guidance on future work.

**12. Population registers and the opportunities they offer for improved public administration and statistics (agenda item 10)**

Under this agenda item, the Economic Commission for Africa will give a presentation on the importance of administrative population registers and key requirements for their establishment. This will be followed by a presentation by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat on introducing statistical population registers and basic requirements for their establishment, including the role of administrative population registers. These presentations will make reference to the recently released United Nations handbook on register-based population and housing censuses.

The experts may wish to consider the matter brought to their attention, including draft resolutions, and to provide the secretariat and partners with guidance on future work.

**13. Panel discussion: Digitalizing civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa to optimize their efficiency and use** (agenda item 11)

Digitalization of civil registration and vital statistics systems is critical to improving the efficiency, ease of access and use of records and documents in those systems. While some countries have made significant progress in this area, success in identifying ideal digital solutions remains a critical challenge for most countries on the continent. A panel comprising country and development partner representatives will reflect on experiences, key challenges and best practices in digitalizing civil registration and vital statistics systems.

The experts may wish to consider the matter brought to their attention, including draft resolutions, and to provide the secretariat and partners with guidance on future work.

**14. Legal identity for migrants, refugees and marginalized population groups** (agenda item 12)

Under this agenda item, panel members will discuss the progress and challenges in providing a legal identity to migrants, refugees and marginalized population groups across the continent. Panel members will highlight the ongoing efforts of African countries to facilitate the registration of vital events related to migrants, along with best practices emerging from such work that can be replicated.

The experts may wish to consider the matter brought to their attention, including draft resolutions, and to provide the secretariat and partners with guidance on future work.

**15. Regional strategy and action plan for civil registration and vital statistics and achieving the commitments of the 2030 Agenda** (agenda item 13)

The Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems sets out the overall vision and action plan for the continent over the coming five years to support the systematic improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems. Under this agenda item, the secretariat will make a short presentation on the regional strategy for civil registration and vital statistics for the period 2023–2027. A plenary discussion will follow. The participating experts will be invited to provide suggestions on approaches to accelerate progress in view of the 2030 deadline.

**16. Subcommittee on civil registration** (agenda item 14)

Under this agenda item, the African Union Commission will brief the participants on progress in establishing a subcommittee on civil registration, including the proposed activities of the subcommittee.

**17. Discussion and endorsement of draft conclusions and recommendations** (agenda item 15)

The experts will be given the opportunity to discuss and endorse the conclusions and recommendations that emerged from the various sessions of the expert segment. The draft conclusions and recommendations are expected to address policy and programme-related

actions that need to be taken at the country and regional levels to accelerate improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems on the continent.

**18. Other matters** (agenda item 16)

The meeting may raise other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

**19. Closing of the expert segment** (agenda item 17)

The Chair of the meeting will highlight the main outcomes of the expert segment and declare the segment closed.

**20. Briefing of ministers by country experts**

Country experts are expected to brief their respective ministers on the outcomes of the expert segment, in particular on the proposed draft conclusions and recommendations.



## **Annex**

### **Members of the Bureau of the Conference**

The composition of the Bureau of the fifth session of the of Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration is as follows:

1. Chair: Zambia (Southern Africa)
  2. First Vice-Chair: Kenya (East Africa)
  3. Second Vice-Chair: Chad (Central Africa)
  4. Third Vice-Chair: Sierra Leone (West Africa)
  5. Rapporteur: Mauritania (North Africa)
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