



African Union Commission



Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Third Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration

Yamoussoukro, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
9-13 February 2015

MEDIA ADVISORY



JOINT MEDIA ADVISORY

Theme: Promoting the use of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in support of Good Governance in Africa

INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

What: “Promoting the use of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in support of Good Governance in Africa”

When: **9-13 February 2015.**

Who: The Ministerial Conference is organized under the auspices of the African Union Commission (AUC) Department of Economic Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

(ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

The Conference is also supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Health Organization (WHO), Plan International, INDEPTH Network and Statistics South Africa as the secretariat for the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development.

Where: Yamoussoukro, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

Objectives: The Third Conference in addition to taking stock of the progress made in APAI-CRVS will provide policy guidance to address the various challenges experienced in the course of implementation of the programme in last four years. It is expected to provide clear directions for establishment of sustainable CRVS systems on the continent and at the same time identify priority actions that will lead to concrete outcomes in the short-term. The conference will: (a) deliberate on good governance in its various facets namely facilitating the: realization of human, political and economic rights, improved service delivery and evidence based policy making, and (b) build knowledge on a good governance approach to CRVS.

Specific objectives: The specific objectives of the Conference are to:

- (a) Review the progress made by countries against the commitments made in the past two Ministerial Conferences and also against the targets set in the APAI-CRVS medium-term plan;
- (b) Deliberate on policy and programmatic actions for the next phase of implementation of the regional Medium Term Plan

Expected Outcome: The Conference is expected to deliver on the following outcomes:

- (a) Progress made against the targets set in the medium term plan of the APAI-CRVS reviewed;
- (b) Progress made against the ministerial resolutions of the past two conferences reviewed;
- (c) Member states learn from each others' successes and challenges in implementation of CRVS programmes;
- (d) Good governance approach to CRVS widely appreciated and recognized;

- (e) Policy and programmatic guidance towards establishment of complete and efficient CRVS systems in Africa through addressing the following issues:
 - sustainable capacity development strategy on CRVS;
 - accessibility of registration services particularly through health sector;
 - inter-operability with national id and electoral systems;
 - choice of appropriate technology solution;
 - civil registration in conflict and emergency situations;
 - gender and CRVS
- (f) Accountability framework to measure and monitor progress made against past commitments.

Participants:

The Conference will bring together a large number of participants, including Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, Ministers responsible for Health, Directors of Civil registration offices, Directors of National Statistics offices, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Experts from African member States, development partners, specialized agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, practitioners, civil society organizations, the private sector, eminent policy and opinion leaders and other concerned stakeholders.

Background:

The Third Ministerial Conference will be held in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire from 9-13 February 2015 under the theme "*Promoting the use of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in support of Good Governance in Africa*". All African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, Ministers of Health, Heads of Civil Registration Offices (CROs) and National Statistics Offices (NSOs), representatives of regional and international organizations, concerned UN agencies, and representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations are expected to participate.

The First Ministerial meeting that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in August 2010 recognized the importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and identified it as one of the continent's key development imperatives. Following the ministers' resolutions, African Heads of State and Government in their 2012 African Union summit institutionalized the ministerial conference as statutory body of the African

Union Commission (AUC) and directed the conference to report on progress and challenges to the summit every two years.

At the Second Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration held in Durban, South Africa in September 2012, ministers re-iterated the continuing importance of CRVS in advancing Africa's development agenda, including accelerating regional integration, attaining the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); an African Union strategic framework for pan-African socio-economic development, and meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They noted in their Declaration at the end of the meeting:

- a. The central role that CRVS plays in governance and economic development;
- b. The role of CRVS in improving access to basic services at all levels, including meeting the MDGs; and
- c. The pervasive way in which CRVS impacts on individuals in their daily, social, political and economic lives.

Among the key outcomes of the Durban meeting was (a) the endorsement of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) that provided the policy and programmatic framework for implementation of CRVS on the continent; and (b) the decision that all countries will undertake comprehensive assessments of CRVS systems and prepare costed national plans irrespective of the state of development of their systems.

This Third Ministerial Conference will aim at contextualizing CRVS in the realm of governance and discuss ways in which a complete and efficient CRVS system can help countries to achieve 'good governance'. The conference is expected to mobilize member States in envisioning this important linkage and guide them in developing and implementing specific strategies and operational plans that will facilitate the realization of good governance as well as help mainstream a good governance approach in CRVS.

This conference is for the first time is being organized under the auspices of AUC following the resolution of the Heads of State and Government in

January 2012. This conference and all future conferences will therefore be conducted under the rules and procedures of business followed by AUC in such ministerial level meetings.

Media representatives are invited to cover the event.

For any inquiry, please contact:

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