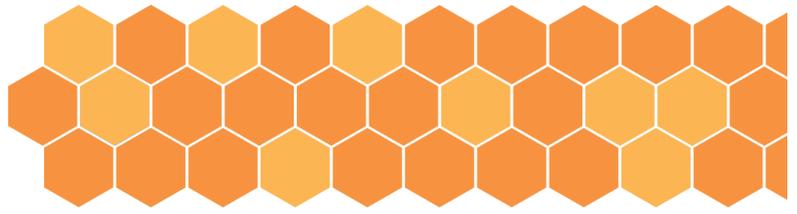




Get  
every one  
in the picture



## Concept Note

### Fourth meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

The fourth meeting of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific (RSG) takes place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13 to 15 November 2018. The purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the midterm review of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade, 2015-2024.

#### **Background**

During its third meeting in 2017, the RSG recommended convening a Ministerial Conference on the midterm review of the implementation of the Regional Action Framework (RAF) on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific.<sup>1</sup> This decision was endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its 74<sup>th</sup> session in 2018.<sup>2</sup>

The midterm review comprises several activities:

1. Countries will report on midterm progress in achieving the goals of the RAF (i.e., universal registration; legal documentation to all; and accurate, complete and timely vital statistics) using a standard template (2019);<sup>3</sup>
2. The ESCAP secretariat will compile the country reports and prepare a regional synthesis report (2019 - 2020);
3. The Ministerial Conference (2020) will review the midterm progress, make commitments for the implementation of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade towards 2024, and decide on adjustments as necessary.

It is expected the Ministerial Conference will consider possible adjustments to the RAF to account for developments since the launch of the Get Every One in the Picture initiative, such as the role and linkage between CRVS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, national identity management systems, service delivery for inclusive growth, etc.<sup>1</sup> The 2018 meeting of the Regional Steering Group is timely to initiate analytical work to support deliberations and decisions by the Ministerial Conference on these matters.

---

<sup>1</sup> Report of the third meeting of the RSG: <https://bit.ly/2xcGqY1>

<sup>2</sup> ESCAP Resolution 74/8 Accelerating the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: <https://www.unescap.org/commission/74/documents>

<sup>3</sup> Regional Action Framework with the description of the country report (called midterm report): <https://www.unescap.org/resources/regional-action-framework-civil-registration-and-vital-statistics-asia-and-pacific>

## **Objectives**

The RSG meeting is held to prepare for the midterm review of the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade, 2015-2024. The midterm review will include country progress reports, a regional synthesis report, and the second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific.

The meeting will focus on:

1. Template and guidelines for country progress reports:
  - a. Agreeing on the country midterm report template, including on how to incorporate progress assessment, updated targets and other information not included in the baseline report template.
  - b. Reviewing the guidelines associated with the country report template to ensure national focal points have a step-by-step, easy to follow instructions for providing accurate and timely responses for the country reporting.
2. Preparatory work for the Ministerial Conference.
  - a. Identifying opportunities to create visibility for the Ministerial Conference, such as the High-level Political Forum, the World Economic Forum, ...
  - b. Identifying key issues for analytical work, such as the link between CRVS and SDGs, ID systems, gender equality, interoperability, innovative technologies and whole-of-government approaches to improving CRVS.
  - c. Proposing and discussing possible changes, modifications or expansions of the RAF and CRVS Decade to accelerate national CRVS system improvements.
3. Working arrangements of the Regional Steering Group:
  - a. Discussing focus and modality for RSG support to the midterm review, including ensuring quality and high response rate for country midterm reporting.
  - b. Reviewing and recommending changes to the RSG terms of reference (ToR) and composition for the 2020-2024 period, for consideration by the ESCAP Commission at its 2019 session.<sup>4</sup>
  - c. Reviewing the work of the existing RSG task forces, including their potential contributions to the midterm review process.

---

<sup>4</sup> More information on the composition of the Regional Steering Group in its terms of reference: [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E71\\_INF9E.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E71_INF9E.pdf)

***Format of the meeting***

The meeting will be hosted by ESCAP at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC). It will feature presentations from RSG members, ESCAP and other development partners engaged in conducting CRVS improvement activities. The meeting will be designed to stimulate interaction, knowledge and information exchange, and networking among participants.

In keeping with last year's success, a CRVS marketplace will feature and allow interested countries and partners to showcase their new initiatives and ideas. The marketplace will facilitate informal dialogue between countries and partners. *A separate note with further information will be circulated shortly.*

***Participants***

Participants will be Regional Steering Group members or their chosen alternates. In addition, Members and Associate members of ESCAP and development partners and donors can participate as observers.

***Language***

The working language of the meeting will be English.

***Meeting of the Asia-Pacific CRVS partnership, 12 November 2018***

The CRVS partnership supporting the implementation of the RAF will meet on 12 November 2018 (the day prior to the start of the RSG) at the same venue. *More information to follow.*