



African Development Bank



United Nations



African Union  
Commission



Federal Democratic  
Republic of Ethiopia

## First Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration

UN Conference Centre  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
13-14 August 2010

# DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

**Theme:** Towards Improved Civil Status Information for Efficient Public Administration and Generation of Vital Statistics for National Development and MDGs Monitoring in Africa



## 1. Registration

Conference participants will register at the delegate's registration place and get their pass to access the UN Conference Centre. Participants are advised to register as soon as their arrival to avoid queuing the day of the opening.

## 2. Introduction and Children's Song

Children will present a song and welcome the conference delegates and participants.

## 3. Opening of the Conference

The Conference will officially be opened by His Excellency, Mr. Girma Woldegiorgis President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. A welcoming statement will be delivered by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Opening remarks will be delivered by Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the Africa Union Commission, and Professor Mthuli Ncube, Vice President and Chief Economist of the African Development Bank.

## 4. Election of the Bureau

The composition of the Bureau will be announced following consultations by heads of delegations. The Bureau will comprise five members as follows: 1 Chairperson, 3 Vice Chairpersons and 1 Rapporteur elected on the basis of equitable geographic representation.

## 5. Making the Case for Improved Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa

Ms. Dorothy Rozga, Deputy Regional Director, UNICEF Liaison Office to the AU/ UNECA and ESARO, Mr. Chrysantus Ache, UNHCR Representative to the AU and UNECA and Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division will deliver some thoughts on the need for improved civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa.

## 6. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work

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

## 7. Background on Revitalization of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa

A presentation highlighting the situation of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa will be delivered. The presentation will include the implication of absence of adequate civil registration and vital statistics systems on legal, administrative and statistical development of a nation as well as at regional and international levels.

## 8. Reforming and Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa

Under this agenda item, technical and operational presentations on major purposes and functions of civil registration and vital statistics systems will be presented by different

speakers. The different technical presentations are expected to be informative and forward looking in addressing the problems and challenges facing African countries in improving the management and operation of civil registration and vital statistics systems. The presentations are also expected to introduce international standards and their relevance, adoption and application to the African countries. These presentations will also help raising awareness and understanding of the purposes, operations and management of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa. The topics to be covered for the presentations are the following:

- a) The need for improved civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa: AUC
- b) Legal, administrative and statistical purposes and functions of civil registration and vital statistics systems: UNSD
- c) Management and operations of civil registration and vital statistics in the African context: ECA
- d) Generation and use of health and demographic statistics and information: UNSD
- e) Challenges and opportunities for improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa: AfDB
- f) Implementing improvements in civil registration and vital statistics systems: HMN
- g) Resource requirements and administration for civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa: AfDB
- h) International experience on law drafting techniques and its application to civil registration laws: Boston University

Before closing the session, participants will be requested to express their impressions and make comments and suggestions that would contribute for future capacity building interventions and improving implementation and management of the operations of the systems in the different country circumstances.

## **9. Country Case Presentations by Selected Countries**

Selected African countries will make brief presentations on the status and performance of civil registration and vital statistics systems in their respective countries. Three categories of countries are identified to share their experiences during the Conference. The first category will comprise of countries with best practices in the implementation of civil registration and production of vital statistics in the region. In the second category countries with ongoing efforts in the improvement of the management and operation of civil registration and production of vital statistics will present and share their experiences. Finally, countries with challenges due to various circumstances will share their experiences and present their government's policy direction towards addressing the problems and challenges.

Participants will discuss on the various country experience presentations and forward issues that need to be reflected in the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference.

## **10. Proposed Medium-term Regional Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Plan**

A three year (2010-2012) draft medium-term plan will be presented for consideration and endorsement. The proposed regional plan was developed for the first time and expected to serve as a roadmap for the region for the coming years. The proposed regional plan will present the goals and objectives under different scenarios and also details of activities and resource requirements.

#### 11. Presentation of the Draft Conclusions and Recommendations

The Expert Meeting that was working on drafting the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference will present the final draft to the Ministerial Conference. The draft conclusions and recommendations are expected, among others to capture major challenges the systems facing in the countries and the region and policy measures need to be taken at country, regional and international levels towards accelerated improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems in member states.

#### 12. Discussion and Resolution of the Ministerial Meeting

Participants will discuss, amend and forward motions on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Conference. Finally, the meeting is expected to endorse the draft resolutions and recommendations.

#### 13. Any other Business

The Conference may wish to consider any other matter that may be brought to its attention.

#### 14. Closing of the Conference

Representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa will make a brief closing remark. The Chairperson of the Conference will highlight the main outcomes of the Conference and declare the meeting closed.