

AFRICAN UNION

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**FOURTH MEETING OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MONETARY AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC
PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
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TERMS OF REFERENCE

FOR

THE SUB COMMITTEE ON CIVIL REGISTRATION

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1 Africa recognized Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems as a development imperative since early 2000, as the African Ministers in charge of Civil Registration emphasized the centrality of civil registration and vital statistics systems for Africa's socio-economic transformation and development and laid the foundation for securing much-needed political commitment to accelerating the improvement of such systems in African countries in their first conference in 2010. They took note of the holistic nature of CRVS and proposed a coordinated and integrated approach for the strengthening of such systems in countries.
- 2 Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offer a unique opportunity for Africa to achieve inclusive, transformative and sustainable growth, aspirations that are urgent in order to put the continent on a sustainable development path. The realization of both Agendas requires that every vital event is registered and statistics related to the events collected, compiled, produced and disseminated in a regular and continuous manner to guide policy and planning, to inform decisions, enable all stakeholders to track progress and make the necessary adjustments to ensure transparency and mutual accountability.
- 3 The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government (**Assembly/AU/Dec.424 (XIX)**), held in July 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, endorsed the institutionalization of a biennial meeting of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration within the framework of a relevant Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union for discussion and evaluation of political and policy issues related to Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Africa.
- 4 All the previous five Conferences that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2010 in Durban, South Africa in 2012, in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire in 2015, in Nouakchott, Mauritania in 2017 and in Lusaka, Zambia in 2019 noted that CRVS is a socio-economic development imperative for Africa and further recognized its fundamental role in promoting good governance and realizing the African Regional Integration agenda. The policy and programmatic guidance by the Ministers through their resolutions and declarations in the afore-mentioned conferences has provided impetus to the implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) at continental, regional and national levels. The twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State and Government Summit held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016 also declared the year 2017-2026 as " the decade for repositioning CRVS in Africa's continental, regional, and national development agenda".
- 5 With the operationalization of the African Union (AU) Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), sectoral Ministerial Conferences have been abolished. In order to preserve the benefits of convening African Ministers responsible for

Civil Registration and experts working on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and legal identity for delivering new knowledge, sharing experiences and guiding decision-making, the Thirty-Second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 25-26 January 2018 through Decision (EX.CI/Dec.988(XXXII)) has adopted the declaration of the Fourth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration that include among others “ the need for creation of a Sub-Committee responsible for Civil Registration under the relevant STC of the AU in accordance with the existing Rules and Regulations.

- 6 The Thirty-Six Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 06-07 February, 2020, also adopted the creation of a Sub-Committee on Civil Registration, under the relevant Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union, in accordance with the existing Rules and Regulations.
- 7 The Sub–Committee on Civil Registration was established in March 2020 by the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration as a Sub-Committee of the STC.

II. STATUS

- a. The Sub Committee on Civil Registration is established pursuant to Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration.
- b. The Sub-Committee on Civil Registration shall be governed by this ToR and the Rules of Procedures of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration.

III. COMPOSITION OF SUB-COMMITTEE on CR

- 8 The members of Sub-Committee on CR shall be Ministers in charge of Civil Registration of all fifty-five (55) AU Member States or their duly accredited representatives.

IV. FUNCTIONS OF SUB-COMMITTEE on CR

- 9 The Sub-Committee on CR shall:
 - a) Provide guidance to the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and other relevant bodies on matters related to Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;

- b) Deliberate and make recommendations to the STC on various issues pertinent to the improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems on the continent;
- c) Implement, follow-up and monitor the implementation of the “Decade for the repositioning of civil registration and vital statistics in Africa: 2017-2026”;
- d) Follow-up on the implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Implementation of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) and the CRVS decade ;
- e) Follow-up on the implementation of Civil Registration and vital statistics issues concerning Africa from the African Union and other relevant continental and international fora;
- f) Make recommendations on common African positions in decision-making processes at the international level for statistical matters in general and on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics matters in particular and coordinate efforts at regional and continental level;
- g) Promote cooperation among AU Member States in the area of Civil registration and Vital Statistics and encourage South-South cooperation;
- h) encourage an effective partnership between governments, inter-governmental organisations and non-state actors in carrying out activities related with civil registration and vital statistics including resource mobilization;
- i) Ensure integration of civil registration and vital statistics issues in national, regional and continental development policies as well as platforms and promote key strategic tools that will ensure the development of well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics system in Africa;
- j) Contribute to the development of the strategies and action plans for the implementation of the AU’s Agenda 2063 as well as the global 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals; and
- k) Carry out any other functions assigned to it by the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration.

V. MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEE on CR

10 The Sub-Committee shall meet:

- a) In ordinary sessions once every two (2) years.
- b) In extraordinary sessions, subject to availability of resources, at the request of any Member State and upon approval by a two-thirds majority of the Member States.
- c) In the event, the session of the Sub-Committee on CR is held outside the headquarters of the Union, the host Member States shall be responsible for all extra expenses incurred by the African Union Commission as a result of holding the session outside the Headquarters.
- d) The meeting of the Sub-Committee CR has to be preceded by the meeting of experts on CR.
- e) The secretariat shall send invitations to Member States 30 days before the Sub-Committee Conference.

VI. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

- a) In accordance with Paragraph III, Ministers in Charge of Civil Registration and other relevant Ministers with related function or their duly accredited representatives shall attend and participate in Sub-Committee conferences.
- b) The Sub-Committee on CR may invite, as observer, any institution or person to attend its sessions. Such observer may be invited to make written or oral interventions without voting rights.
- c) AU rules and decisions on sanctions shall be applicable to Sub-Committee on CR Members as the case may be.

VII. QUORUM

11 The Quorum to conduct Sub-Committee meeting is a simple majority of the total Sub-Committee on CR Members.

VIII. BUREAU OF THE SUB COMMITTEE ON CR

- a) The Sub-Committee shall, on the basis of rotation and geographical distribution, elect from amongst its members, (1) Chairperson, three (3) Vice Chairpersons and one (1) Rapporteur to coordinate the activities of the Sub-Committee.
- b) The Bureau shall provide leadership and direction, and shall represent the Sub-Committee when called upon.

- c) The Bureau shall report to the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration through the Sub-Committee on CR ;
- d) The Bureau of the Sub-Committee on CR shall hold annual meeting convened in consultation with the secretariat.

IX. THE EXPERTS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON CR

The Registrars General on CR of AU Member States shall be considered as the experts to serve the Sub-Committee on CR.

X. SECRETARIAT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON CR

12 The African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) of the AU Commission shall serve as the Secretariat of the Sub-Committee on CR and shall provide technical expertise to guide the Sub-Committee decision-making and follow-up on the implementation of the outcomes of its meetings.

XI. LANGUAGES

- a) The working languages of the Sub-Committee on CR shall be those of the AU (Arabic, English, French and Portuguese).
- b) Statements made in any of the AU working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.
- c) All reports of the Sub-Committee on CR shall be translated into the AU working languages.

XII. AMENDMENTS

13 The Sub-Committee on CR may propose amendments to these Terms of Reference. Such proposal(s) shall be submitted to the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration for consideration.

XIII. ENTRY INTO FORCE

14 These Terms of Reference and any amendments thereof shall enter into force upon adoption by the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration.