



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE FOR WEST AFRICA

**Training workshop for Francophone experts on the Africa Programme for the
Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
(APAI-CRVS)**

CONCEPT NOTE

Yaoundé, November 02 – 06, 2015

1. Context

The regional workshop on strategies for improving civil registration and vital statistics in Africa held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, in June 2009, analyzed the fundamental constraints and challenges related to the improvement of the CRVS on the continent. It was given to the ECA African Center for Statistics (ACS), to launch the preparation of a Medium-Term Plan (MTP) in close collaboration with the African Development Bank.

Following this, the First Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration which was held on August 13-14, 2010 in Addis Ababa, was devoted to gaining the commitment of African Ministers to strengthen the system of civil registration and vital statistics in their countries and approved the MTP.

In January 2011, the national experts and those of the regional and international organizations reviewed and finalized the APAI-CRVS Plan as a reference tool to coordinate operations and control the achievements of CRVS systems in Africa between 2010 and 2015.

On a similar note, the Expert Group Meeting and the Second Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration held in Durban, in September 2012, recommended in particular to conduct an exhaustive assessment of civil registration systems and to develop national strategies and action plans for their improvement.

In February 2015, the Third Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, which was held in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire under the theme, "Promoting the use of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in support of Good Governance in Africa", confirmed the commitment of all the stakeholders for the development of CRVS systems in Africa. In this regard, the conference noted that priority must be granted to strengthening the capacities and coordination among the actors involved. The Conference also praised the progress accomplished in the implementation of the APAI-CRVS programme since 2010, underlining in particular the *efforts deployed by the Regional Support Group for the CRVS in technical and operational support for complete assessments and the development of plans for improvement.*

Nevertheless, in spite of the advances noted, a certain number of constraints and challenges were identified in the implementation of the APAI-CRVS programme, in particular in the Francophone countries. In this regard, the Regional Support Group for the APAI-CRVS took a certain number of measures to ensure that the Francophone countries receive appropriate and specific support. In particular, in February 2015, a team within the Regional Support Group was set up to coordinate and accelerate the implementation of the APAI-CRVS programme in these countries and to organize an initial workshop for Francophone countries.

The objective of this initial workshop is to strengthen the capacities of participants in the management of the tools, directives and guides developed to conduct complete and integrated assessments and to develop national systems of civil registration and vital statistics in Africa (APAI-CRVS). During the workshop, the participants, in the light of national practices, reviewed

the processes and tools proposed and formulated recommendations for their improvement. In addition, among other things, they recommended the development of a roadmap to accelerate the implementation of the APAI-CRVS programme and the reinforcement of the pool of experts to accompany the countries.

2. The objective and expected results of the 2nd workshop for Francophone experts

The general objective of the workshop for Francophone experts on the Africa Programme for the Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics is to launch the implementation of the APAI-CRVS programme in the Francophone countries and to serve as a platform for sharing experiences in order to accelerate the implementation of the APAI-CRVS programme in these countries.

More specifically, the workshop aims to:

- strengthen the capacities of experts from Francophone countries on principles and recommendations in terms of systems for civil status registration and vital statistics (CRVS)
- validate the amended APAI-CRVS guides and tools according to the recommendations of the first training workshop;
- approve the roadmap to accelerate the implementation of the APAI-CRVS programme by conducting pre-assessment and assessment missions of CRVS in countries;
- discuss the strategy for mobilizing resources to support national efforts to improve CRVS.

At the end of this workshop, the following results are expected:

- the guides and reference tools of the APAI-CRVS programme adapted to Francophone countries are available;
- the roadmap to accelerate the implementation of the APAI-CRVS programme together with a calendar for the national assessments of CRVS systems is approved;
- the capacities of the national experts involved in CRVS are strengthened;
- strategic guidelines for the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programme are defined.

3. The organization of the workshop

The workshop for Francophone experts on the Africa Programme for the Accelerated Improvement of Civil Status Registration and Vital Statistics is organized by the Regional Support Group, including: the ECA, the AUC, the AfDB, UNICEF, the UNFPA and the UNHCR.

The workshop is planned for a period of 5 days. The proceedings will be organized around the following themes:

- Training on the principles and recommendations of the United Nations on civil status
- Presentation and validation of guides and tools reviewed in the light of the recommendations of the first training workshop
- Presentations by participating countries and the Regional Support Group on the developments noted since the meeting of February 2015 and the prospects
- Presentations and discussions on the strategy for mobilizing resources to support the CRVS improvement process.

4. The participants of the training workshop

The Workshop will assemble:

- Officials of national statistical institutes and civil status registration services of the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad and Togo.
- The following institutions: AFRISTAT, ENSEA and ISSEA
- 2 Consultants and Experts
- The Regional Support Group (16): ECA (2) & SRO-WA (4); UNSD (1) UNICEF, AfDB, UNFPA, UNHCR, AUC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, Paris 21, OIF

5. Place and date of the workshop

The training workshop will be held in Yaoundé in Cameroon on October 19-23, 2015.

The ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa, the ECA African Center for Statistics, the African Development Bank and UNICEF collaborate in the organization of the Workshop and will handle all the logistics at the local level, including hotel reservations, reception at the airport, the shuttle (local transport service) to and from the hotel. The organizers will cover the cost of the air tickets and per diems for sponsored participants at the rate in effect.

6. Focal points for the meeting

The confirmation of participation and other communications should be addressed to:

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