



Expert Group Meeting for Registrar Generals (EGMRG),
25- 27 June 2025
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

Meeting Outcome

1. Convening the 6th Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration

Noting the **critical importance of high-level political commitment** to advancing the CRVS agenda, the meeting **urges the organization of the 6th Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration at the earliest possible opportunity in 2025.**

The meeting further recognizes the **risks posed by delays**, which may reverse the gains achieved and weaken momentum for sustained investments and coordinated efforts to accelerate progress. The meeting calls on:

1. **Member States** to consider **sponsoring the participation of their Ministers responsible for civil registration** to ensure high-level representation at the conference.
2. The **APAI-CRVS Secretariat**, the **African Union Commission**, the **African Development Bank**, and **members of the CRVS Regional Core Group** to provide the necessary financial and technical support to facilitate the organization and preparatory processes of the conference.
 - Taking into account the prevailing financing challenges, the meeting urges the formulation of a technical working group composed of countries and partners that will work closely with the Secretariat in spearheading the relevant resource mobilization, high level advocacy and communication activities that would facilitate the organization of the conference.

2. Accelerating progress of CRVS systems

Taking note of progress made in the development and strengthening of CRVS systems, yet the need to accelerate progress, the meeting:

1. Urged countries to prioritize, adopt, and implement *interoperability*, *decentralization*, and *digitalization* as key strategies to accelerate the strengthening of CRVS systems, ensuring more accessible, routine, and reliable registration of all

- vital events, including middle-of-life events, and the regular production of vital statistics. In this regard, the meeting made the following recommendations:
- a. Interoperability:** Develop and institutionalize national interoperability frameworks, embedding interoperability as a core public governance function and positioning CRVS and legal identity systems as the foundation of digital public infrastructure, in line with the United Nations Model on Legal Identity.
 - b. Decentralisation:** Establish decentralization frameworks that position civil registration as a core public service at all administrative levels. Embed CRVS within local governance, health systems, and community-based services to strengthen inclusive delivery service. Ensure these frameworks address access barriers in humanitarian and fragile settings.
 - c. Digitalisation:** Continue to Promote the digital transformation of CRVS systems through the adoption of **secure, interoperable, and scalable digital solutions** that enhance data quality, enable mobile and remote registration services, and support real-time data collection and analysis.
2. Urge countries to fully implement recommendations from the previous Expert Group Meetings and Ministerial Conferences, with a specific focus on thematic areas that are lagging behind, in particular, the registration of marriages, divorces, deaths as well as the reporting of causes of death, and production of vital statistics from these events.
 - In regard to marriage and divorce registration, the meeting encouraged countries to consider the adoption and implementation of the continental guideline on Marriage and divorce registration.
 3. Encouraged countries to cautiously leverage emerging technologies, including AI, to enhance CRVS and legal identity systems, while ensuring strong legal and ethical safeguards, adherence to international standards, robust data protection, and mitigation of security risks.
 4. The meeting reinforced the importance of sustainable financing for CRVS systems as core infrastructure for governance and public administration, urging countries to prioritize CRVS in national budgets with dedicated, long-term funding aligned with the three accelerator strategies that underpin system transformation: interoperability, decentralization, and digitalization.

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