

## Recommendations

### Pacific Regional Workshop on Legal Identity and Identity Security

8-10<sup>th</sup> July 2019

SPC Headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia

#### PREAMBLE

We, the administrators of civil registration, directors of health and health information officials for the Pacific convened at a regional workshop held on 8-10 July 2019 in Noumea, New Caledonia, on the theme, legal identity and identity security; a workshop jointly organised by the Statistics and Public Health Divisions of the Pacific Community, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Pacific Civil Registrars Network and supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Taking note of our national commitments towards:

- a. SDG target 16.9 of the sustainable development agenda which commits us to achieving universal legal identity for all Pacific people by 2030, as well as other SDG targets for which progress can be enabled and accelerated through the provision of legal identity and underlying foundational ID systems.
- b. The Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015-2024) and the three goals therein: universal civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events, provision of legal documentation of civil registration and production of vital statistics based on civil registration records.

Further taking note of the deliberations of the workshop which underline:

- a. The need to accelerate our progress towards the above outlined goals; and
- b. The criticality of our role in the legal identity and the identity security agenda and its impact towards improving the visibility and therefore the lives of the Pacific people including the rights of children, women and the most vulnerable in society.

SUPPORTED BY THE BRISBANE ACCORD GROUP (BAG)

**Hereby resolve to:**

1. Promote and support implementation of a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management; in this regard we commit to implement interoperable systems in which civil registration provides the foundation for national digital identification and vital statistics systems.
2. Establish consistent data sharing arrangements between health and civil registration departments (including through establishing appropriate legislative and/policy frameworks), as a key strategy towards achieving universal, accurate and complete civil registration systems in the region.
3. Endeavour to strengthen mechanisms to improve the security of civil registration and health records particularly through:
  - a. Implementing person-based registers (including unique identification codes/ numbers), and;
  - b. Implementing appropriate record management protocol and providing appropriate training for staff managing these records
4. Implement robust ICT systems to support efficient civil registration and health information systems operations, personal privacy and data protection, including safe storage and the timely and secure sharing of data across other crucial government departments.
5. Ensure that ICT systems for civil registration, national digital identification (if existent) and health information are designed for interoperability and with a scope to address national risks to disasters, especially considering off-site back up for the secure storage of records.
6. Endeavour to align to international standards and recommendations including supporting implementation of a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management.
7. Where appropriate, implement mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of data on deaths and name-changes that occur overseas, as a key measure to improve the completeness and fidelity of legal identity records and data.
8. Promote the design and implementation of civil registration systems in alignment with the [Principles and recommendations for vital statistics systems](#), and national digital identification systems with the [Principles on Identification for Sustainable Development](#).
9. Monitor the performance of civil registration systems, through estimation of birth and death registration completeness on an annual basis. In support of this we agree to make available to SPC appropriate data on live births and deaths, to be used to monitor regional progress on the performance of civil registration systems.

10. Work towards eliminating all existing and potential barriers to civil registration especially those linked to inaccessibility of registration services by the public.
11. Make available civil registration data for the production of vital statistics.
12. Promote the use of civil registration records and documents by other government departments, especially departments managing travel documents through establishing timely and secure data sharing arrangements.

**We urge:**

13. Brisbane Accord Group to finalise the regional principles and standards on IT for civil registration and vital statistics, including a checklist on procurement approaches and to make this available to countries.
14. The Brisbane Accord Group and other partner organizations to continue to invest in reinforcing the human resource capacity of our countries and in particular that of younger staff engaged in civil registration, vital statistics and identity management.

**The end**