

FORUM: Sustainable Development Commission sub-commission 2

QUESTION OF: The question of universal birth registration

SUBMITTED BY: Nicaragua

CO-SUBMITTERS: Ivory Coast, Poland, Greenpeace, Liberia, Rwanda, Finland, Myanmar, Colombia, Algeria, UN Women, Spain, Somalia, Turkmenistan, Ethiopia, Kuwait, Madagascar, El Salvador, Estonia, Bulgaria, Italy, Guinea, Hungary, Nauru, Cambodia, Ecuador, Tunisia, Gambia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Indonesia, Albania, UNIDO

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION,

Aware that, according to UNICEF, 25% of the children under 5 in the world are not registered, and alarmed by 230 million children undocumented into government records after birth,

Keeping in mind the obligation of nations to register all children immediately after birth as stated in Articles 16 and 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as in Article 7 and Article 8 of Part 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council calling upon nations to register children immediately after birth such as the resolution 19/L.24 of March 16th 2012 and resolution 16/L.13 of March 22nd 2011,

Recognizing the importance of birth registration in creating an official record of the existence of a person and therefore giving them the right to be recognized as a person in front of the law which is guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Further recognizing the importance of birth registration for the development of vital statistics and the effective implementation of programmes and policies intended to achieve internationally agreed development goals, such as but not limited to the 16th sustainable development aiming to provide legal identity for all including free birth registrations by the year 2030,

Profoundly concerned that the lack of birth registration causes limited or no access for the unregistered individuals to the rights to which they are entitled, such as but not limited to legal identity and standing, and also leads to a fear of deportation, as well as a state of vulnerability due to a lack of protection from their statelessness,

Expressing its appreciation for the establishment of UN Legal Identity Expert Group (UN LIEG) with the aim of placing emphasis on building a legal identity system founded on civil registration from birth to death with a human rights approach,

1. Calls upon States to render birth registration free and easily accessible to all individuals to ensure universal, simple and discrimination-free procedures of registration by:
 - a) simplifying the procedures and regulations such as but not limited to removing the need for a marriage certificate during the process of birth registration
 - b) eliminating/minimizing the fees to favour humble households
 - c) ensuring the universalisation of birth registration by making the process understandable to all by:
 - i. employing translators that translates the procedures to the local language
 - ii. placing leaflets in local language that explain the procedure in birth registration areas (Indonesia)
 - d) eliminating discriminatory legislation against:
 - i. children of asylum seekers
 - ii. refugees and undocumented workers
 - iii. the mother registering a birth without the approval or presence of the child's father and vice versa;

2. Recommends that States inform their population about birth registration and its importance in giving newborns access to the rights which they are entitled to as well as access to services by:
 - a) using media such as radio, television and film as well as folk and traditional media to broadcast birth registration messages
 - b) enlisting the help of influential people such as community and religious leaders, national celebrities and ambassadors to promote birth registration
 - c) improving parental awareness of birth registration by showing them the benefits of registering their children's birth, such as but not limited to the recognition before the law
 - d) encouraging intensive, short-term registration campaigns which can be combined with other health-related campaigns;
 - e) Advocating community leaders, elders, and political figures to reach out to their communities and educate them about the importance of universal birth registration as to sustain this concept both in the status quo and in the long term,
 - f) Providing Authorities, the means to draw on pre-existing community structures and leadership to ensure a feeling of ownership within local communities,
 - g) Educating individuals (Underage by the school curriculum and adults by small-fair or free courses provided by the government) about the advantages of Birth Registration such as receiving medical treatment, education, property and preventing exploitation and the finding of work; (Mexico)
3. Encourages States to ask for technical help, if needed, from relevant United Nations bodies, funds or programmes, such as but not limited to the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, in order to fulfill their obligation to undertake birth registration;
4. Strongly encourages NGOs and IGOs such as Plan, UNHCR, or UNICEF to continue helping the States that need most support in the field of birth registration;
5. Calls for the creation of a late registration process for citizens with no birth certificate to apply for one if said citizen meets all the requirements of citizenship, which include information about the applicants regarding their
 - a) Full name
 - b) Date of birth
 - c) Place of birth
 - d) Sex at birth
 - e) Any existing information on the parents (Slovenia)
6. Deplores birth policies related to either sex or number of children, as they lead to unregistered births and do not help citizens;
7. Expresses its hope for government accountability and change, and calls on member states to:
 - a) integrate birth registration into a national development of action and children's rights agenda
 - b) allocate adequate funds towards building effective birth registration systems and for training of work to achieve the sustainability of the system
 - c) propose special policies for marginalized people such as but not limited to
 - i. pilot initiatives to target hard-to-reach families
 - ii. use of technology for remote registration
 - iii. redistribution of the responsibility for birth registration from national governments to sub-national or regional structures
 - d) monitor the operation of birth registration systems by supporting the development of an online birth registration information management system that allows all levels of

government to view and track birth registration data, while respecting pre-existing laws such as the General Data Protection Regulation for the protection of sensitive personal data and which can be accessed by the person involved

- e) provide training for those responsible for registration at local levels by supporting adequate guidance and easily understandable reference materials;
8. Requests the installation of a fine to the parents if they have not registered their child after the legal delay set up by the country which should be:
 - a) superior to the fee of birth registration
 - b) refunded once the parents, legal guardian(s), or closest living relative to the child responsible for said child's upbringing and well-being register the child
 - c) used in developing and improving the process of birth registration;
 9. Further encourages entities such as but not limited to the World Bank (WB), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to work with more developed countries to allocate funds for people who cannot afford birth registration;
 10. Further calls upon each sovereign state to allow registration for a child of citizens born abroad and, in cases where the child would be eligible for birthright citizenship in their place of birth, to allow the child to obtain that nationality based on the existing regulations of the State.