



Joint Conclusions
2nd Regional Conference on the Right to Legal Identity and Prevention of
Statelessness “Leaving No One Behind at Birth”
5-6 September 2019

1. *Expressing* support to the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness launched by UNHCR in 2014 and acknowledging the significant progress made by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan in addressing statelessness including through confirmation or grant of citizenship of more than 68,000 people in the last five years; granting rights to stateless persons residing on their respective territories; and reforming national legislative frameworks on citizenship to improve the level of compliance with international standards;
2. *Noting* the commitments made by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan under the major human rights instruments, including: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which stipulate that States Parties should register all children immediately after birth without discrimination¹ and the right to acquire nationality, as invoked by the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council every year since 2001²;
3. *Noting* active engagement of the Central Asian States with the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness, including Action 1³ (resolve existing major situations of statelessness), Action 2 (ensure that no child is born stateless),

¹ Turkmenistan acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons on 7/12/2011 and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness on 29/08/2012. Article 29 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families, provides that “each child of a migrant worker shall have the right to a name, to registration of birth and to a nationality.” In Central Asia, the Kyrgyz Republic on 29/09/2005 and Tajikistan on 8/01/2002 ratified this Convention.

² UN Human Rights Council, Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law : Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 17 June 2014, A/HRC/27/22, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53ff324e4.html>

³ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Global Action Plan to End Statelessness, 4 November 2014, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/545b47d64.html>



Action 6 (grant protection status to stateless migrants and facilitate their naturalization), Action 7, (on ensuring birth registration for prevention of statelessness), Action 9 (accede to the UN Statelessness Conventions) and Action 10 (improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations);

4. *Taking into account* that the UN Sustainable Development Goals for the period until 2030 that has the principle of ‘leave no one behind’, and notably, its target 16.9 aiming, which aims to achieve ‘legal identity for all, including birth registration’⁴;

5. *Noting* that the outcomes of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Ministerial Conference in Asia and Pacific in November 2014⁵, in which Ministers of the Central Asian countries participated, adopted the Ministerial Declaration ‘Get Everyone in the Picture’ and the accompanying Regional Action Framework endorsing the goal of achieving universal and responsive CRVS system by 2024;

6. *Recognizing* that a number of children in Central Asia born to parents without identity documents and status remain unregistered at birth and may become stateless in the future; while children born to parents who are unable to confer nationality will remain stateless;

7. *Noting* the ongoing efforts of Central Asian States in strengthening the national legislation pertaining to the Civil Acts Registration to enhance the system for birth registration, to guarantee the right for every child born on the territory to be registered at birth even in the case that their parents are undocumented and/or stateless;

8. *Recognizing* that the quantitative and qualitative data on stateless population, persons with undetermined nationality and birth registration including late birth registration, need improvement in order to assess the scale of statelessness and design measures to respond.

⁴ UN General Assembly, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/57b6e3e44.html>

⁵ UNESCAP, Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (10 December 2014), UN Doc. E/ESCAP/MCCRVS/4, available at <http://undocs.org/en/E/ESCAP/MCCRVS/4>



The government representatives from Central Asia agree to take the following actions by the end of the #IBelong Campaign in 2024:

- I. Present information on progress and plans to address any remaining challenges through the High-Level Segment on statelessness in October 2019.
- II. Develop and implement national action plans that set out detailed strategies to end and prevent statelessness.
- III. Undertake identification exercises in the whole of their territories in order to map the full extent of statelessness and to link the identification of stateless persons to solutions.
- IV. Facilitate acquisition or confirmation of nationality to those with entitlement to it in order to end the known cases of statelessness in their territories.
- V. Establish a legal mechanism by which all children born in the territory are registered at birth and have access to a nationality. If otherwise stateless, to have the nationality of country of birth.
- VI. Adopt statelessness determination procedures that are in line with international standards and which lead to a legal status for stateless persons and guarantees their enjoyment of basic human rights and facilitated naturalization.
- VII. Amend legislation to allow for birth registration of children born to parents of undetermined nationality or that lack documentation.
- VIII. Step-up efforts related to acceding to the Statelessness Conventions and bringing national legislation in line with the Conventions' provisions.
- IX. Include statelessness relevant questions in their upcoming national population censuses and improve quantitative and qualitative data through other data collection methods like civil registration data, targeted surveys and studies.