

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MS F. CHOHAN**

**AGENDA ITEM: INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION**

1. Dignity is awarded when human beings are governed by the body of law. The essence of this, is the right to a nationality and the instrument to achieving this right is universal, inclusive and non-discriminatory civil registration.
2. While many African countries had for decades operated civil registration systems, yet these systems did not, in all respects, function well. In recognition of this, African Ministers responsible for civil registration under the auspices of the AU held the first Conference for civil registration in 2010 in Addis Ababa, and this has occurred every two years after that.
3. This year the AU declared August 10, to be the first Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Day under the theme "Promoting Universal Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System for Good Governance and Better Lives".
4. Many positive developments have continued to be achieved through this CRVS initiative. Widening access to civil registration is aimed at eradicating statelessness. Hence my delegation gently suggests that this initiative of the African Union be afforded some mention in the Note on International Protection (A/AC.96/1178).

I thank you.