

**UNHCR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS**  
**3 – 5 JULY 2019**

International Conference Center Geneva

**DISCUSSION PAPER**

**Title of session:** Statelessness Data and Evidence: The Challenges and the Road Ahead

**Date:** Wednesday, 3 July 2019

**Time/Room:** 16h – 18h – Room 3

**Executive Summary:**

Despite increased awareness of statelessness globally, more needs to be done to encourage and capacitate governments to identify and report on stateless people. Fewer than half the countries in the world have any government data on stateless populations. The session will explore concrete ways data collection on statelessness can be achieved, highlight solutions and good practices currently taking place to improve data collection in Africa and the Americas, and identify the challenges that need to be overcome.

**Concept Note:**

Despite increased awareness of statelessness globally, more needs to be done to encourage and capacitate governments to identify and report on stateless people. Fewer than half the countries in the world have any government data on stateless populations. Recent collaborative approaches to data collection as well as good practices at country level present some solutions to the persistent challenge related to reporting on statelessness.

The session will begin by presenting experiences in data gathering by national statistics offices in Africa. A representative of the Institut National de la Statistique of Côte d'Ivoire will explain the countrywide mapping exercise carried out in 2018. The exercise intended to capture the number of people at risk of statelessness and map these populations.

The panel will continue to present on experiences in the Americas. The Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness (Red ANA) will explain the good practices in Chile that emerged from a judicial action initiated by civil society that was then transformed into an institutional project by the State (Chile Reconoce); Costa Rica where hundreds of people from the Ngäbe-Buglé indigenous group were given nationality documents through a joint effort of civil registries in Costa Rica and Panamá. Finally, the migration and asylum seekers crisis of people leaving Venezuela has created new challenges in Colombia due to its nationality regime that requires domicile of foreign parents to access Colombian nationality for their children born in that country.

The session will then introduce new collaborative approaches to data collection at the international level. UNFPA will explain the current UN system efforts to develop common methods on disaggregated data collection and analysis of evidence related to statelessness. This include the creation of an Inter-Agency Working Group on Statelessness and collaboration with States on ongoing data initiatives.

Objectives of the session:

- Explore solutions and good practices currently taking place to improve data collection on statelessness.
- Reinforce the importance of collecting and reporting on reliable data on statelessness.

## **Methodology**

Panel discussion

## **Moderator and Panelists**

Moderator: Melanie Khanna, Chief Statelessness Section, UNHCR

Panelist 1: Mr. Francisco Quintana, The Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness (Red ANA)

Panelist 2: Mr. Doré Désiré Emmanuel Aka, Institut National de la Statistique of Côte d'Ivoire

Panelist 3: Ms. Françoise Ghorayeb - Humanitarian Data Adviser, UNFPA