

## Harnessing The Power: CRVS Systems For 2030 Global Agendas

### CONCEPT NOTE

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#### BACKGROUND

**The Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health 2016-2030 set ambitious development targets for the future.**

In the context of long term development, the SDG agenda recognizes that innovative and sustainable Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems, integrated with health and national ID systems, are powerful drivers for more inclusive economies and a broad range of future development benefits, producing critical measurement data for many population based indicators and targets: for example: Goal 16 refers specifically to providing legal identity for all, including birth registration. Across Goal 3 for Health, vital statistics are needed for monitoring key targets for mortality including reducing maternal, neonatal and child deaths. Vital statistics can also be used to measure progress in other areas – access to education, achieving gender equality and reducing inequalities.

However, CRVS systems, in conjunction with other systems, create a foundation for country administration, building the backbone of **inclusive development** through improving citizen participation and access to government and services including health; supporting **social protection**, bridging the gap for the most vulnerable; and creating opportunities for all segments of the population and distribute the dividends of increased prosperity fairly across society<sup>1</sup>. At an individual level, civil status registration is essential for people to be able to realize their rights and to assume their obligations as they emerge from the legal relations to which they participate.

Yet, only about 72% of the world population has a birth certificate, and around half of all deaths in the world are not documented<sup>2</sup>. Around 1 billion people in the world cannot prove their legal identity<sup>3</sup>. The problem is acute in developing countries, where there are greater numbers of citizens with no birth certificate, with undocumented persons unable to exercise rights and access services, including basic health and education services, and where deaths are not recorded. In these countries significant and sustained improvements in underpinning systems must be made to ensure concrete gains.

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<sup>1</sup> OECD 2017 [http://www.oecd.org/inclusive-growth/Policy\\_Brief\\_Time\\_to\\_Act.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/inclusive-growth/Policy_Brief_Time_to_Act.pdf)

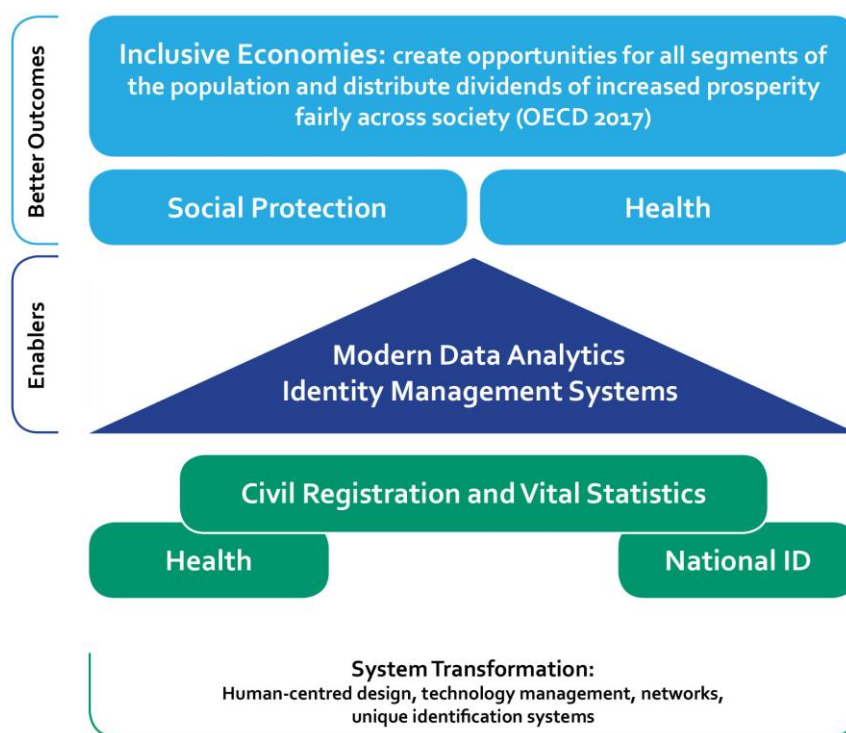
<sup>2</sup> WHO 2017. World Health Statistics 2017

<sup>3</sup> World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/id4d>



Across systems, every vital event must be recorded to protect and save lives and for inclusive development. New and improved approaches for systems, organization and processes are available which may help transform CRVS and related systems for greater potential benefit. This conference will explore with global and country experts the current status and use of innovation in CRVS in developed and developing economies, to generate 'current state' knowledge about CRVS, and to prioritize 'future state' research and innovation needs in the context of social protection, health and inclusive economies (Figure 1).

Figure 1



## MAIN CONFERENCE THEMES

Better outcomes for social protection and health systems, in the context of inclusive economies will rely on new approaches including:

- **New enabling methods for CRVS and related systems**, including modern data analytics and identity management systems; and
- **System Transformation can be achieved** across CRVS and related systems using a human rights approach and human centred design.

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVE

1. To generate 'current state' knowledge about CRVS by exploring the current status and use of innovation in CRVS in developed and developing economies, providing a platform to experts for presenting their innovative and constructive ideas at international level.
2. To prioritize 'future state' research and innovation needs for development into a Global 3-5 year workplan including necessary partnerships and capacity building approaches.

## AUDIENCE

The conference is an international event designed for CRVS practitioners from low and middle income countries, experts from the academia, UN Agencies, private sector and civil society working towards the future improvement of CRVS system. It will be a unique forum to take stock of the recent innovations in the field, tackle issues of common concerns, and debate possible high impact interventions and policy level responses to the challenges and concerns posed by the CRVS systems.

## CONFERENCE OUTPUTS

- **Shaping the future:** Global knowledge on current and potential CRVS innovations.
- **Themes and priorities:** Agreement on areas of focus to be included in a Global 3-5 year workplan; using Innovation Taskforces to develop innovative and scaled approaches to support the achievement of targets in the Canada-financed World Bank-WHO Global Scaling up Plan.
- **Partnerships and capacity:** Agreement on the necessary partnerships and capacity building approach to support the forward looking agenda.

## LANGUAGE

The languages of the conference will be French and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be available for the plenary sessions and panels, but not for the innovation labs or the presentation booths.

## ORGANIZERS

The conference is a collaboration between the Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems, WHO and UNICEF, in close cooperation with the Global CRVS Group.

## AGENDA OVERVIEW

The conference will be run over two days, and include plenary and parallel sessions, and innovations labs.

- **Plenary sessions** will be led by a keynote speaker and high level panel addressing the main challenges and opportunities for CRVS systems from a strategic (medium to long-term) perspective.
- **Panel sessions** will allow the participants to engage with key elements within the broader agenda in a more concentrated way; for example, focusing on Inclusive development, modern data analytics and human-centred design principles.
- **Innovation labs** will enable concentrated discussion and workshopping by experts and country representatives of new and emerging approaches and technologies, presented as case studies, to consider in detail how these could be applied in countries seeking to strengthen their systems – for example, whether human-centred design approaches can be used to improve the reach of CRVS and other systems to vulnerable populations. The purpose is to recommend new approaches for further inclusion for development in a global workplan.
- The **final plenary session** will draw together discussions from the plenary and panel sessions, as well as from the innovation labs, to propose themes and priorities, partnerships and capacity as per the conference outcomes.

# Conference: Agenda Structure

## DAY 1 CONFERENCE

Opening Plenary: 09h00 – 11h00 (*Hopper A/B*)

**Welcome Address: The global significance of CRVS systems**

- **Christopher MacLennan**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
- **Jean Lebel**, President, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

**Panel discussion: CRVS systems To achieve the 2030 agenda**

**Moderator: Peter Taylor**, Director, Inclusive Economies, IDRC

- **John Grove**, Director, Department of Information, Evidence and Research, World Health Organization
- **Anil Arora**, Chief Statistician, Statistics Canada
- **Haishan Fu**, Director, Development Data Group, World Bank
- **Srdjan Mrkić**, Chief, Demographic Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division
- **Alexandre-Marie Yomo**, Director, National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC), Cameroon
- **Jaime Bulande Guta**, National Director of Registry and Notary, Directorate of Civil Registration and Notaries, Mozambique

11h00-11h15: Coffee/tea break (*Foyer outside Hopper A/B*)

Panel Sessions: 11h15 – 13h00

<p><b>Panel session 1 (Hopper A/B)</b></p> <p><b>Inclusive Development</b> (World Bank with CoE)</p> <p><b>Moderator: Oliver Chinganya</b>, Director, African Centre for Statistics, UNECA</p> <p><b>Jonathan Marskell</b>, Operations Officer, ID4D program, World Bank Group: <i>Civil registration and identification for improved access to services</i></p> <p><b>Amitabh Suthar</b>, Epidemiologist, CDC's Center for Global Health: <i>Report on systematic review of policies to universal birth and death registration</i></p> <p><b>Laetitia Bazzi</b>, Chief, Child Protection, UNICEF Senegal: Linking communities to civil registration services</p> <p><b>Kristen Wenz</b>, Child Protection Specialist &amp; Global Civil Registration and Legal Identity Technical Lead, UNICEF HQ: <i>Incentives for Improving Birth Registration Coverage Rates</i></p> <p><b>Rikke Munk Hansen</b>, Chief Economic and Environment Statistics, UNESCAP: <i>The Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015- 2024) –an anchor for inclusive development</i></p>	<p><b>Panel session 2 (Pearson Boardroom)</b></p> <p><b>Human Centred Design (including demand creation)</b> (UNICEF NY with CoE)</p> <p><b>Moderator: Raj Mitra –</b> Independent Consultant</p> <p><b>Vibeke Nielsen</b>, Senior Adviser, Division of Development Cooperation, Statistics Norway : <i>Personal IDs for easy interaction – the case of Norway</i></p> <p><b>Gloria Mathenge</b>, Social Statistician, Pacific Community (SPC) - <i>Human centric design: lessons learnt from the Pacific</i></p> <p><b>Bhaskar Mishra</b>, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF- Tanzania – <i>Human centered design : an example from Tanzania</i></p> <p><b>Ashfaqu Amin Mukut</b>, Deputy Secretary Cabinet Division, Government of Bangladesh: <i>Putting People at the Core: CRVS and Beyond (CRVS+...)</i></p>	<p><b>Panel Session 3 (Hopper C)</b></p> <p><b>CRVS Innovations in Conflict and Emergency Settings</b> (French Speaking) (UNICEF WCARO with CoE)</p> <p><b>Moderator: Mirkka Mattila</b>, Regional Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF WCARO</p> <p><b>Marwan Khawaja</b>, Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Section, UNESCWA : <i>Advancing CRVS in the service of Syrian refugees</i></p> <p><b>Dimitri Sanga</b>, Director, Regional Office for West Africa, UNECA: <i>CRVS in conflict and emergencies – an example from West Africa</i></p> <p><b>Nicholas Oakeshott</b>, Senior Identity Management Officer, UNHCR : <i>CRVS and forced displacement: current challenges and possible solutions</i></p> <p><b>Fodé Oumar Touré</b>, Head, Division of Population Services and Statistics, Guinea: <i>Ebola Crisis (tbc)</i></p>
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**13h00 – 14h00: Lunch (Foyer outside Pearson Boardroom)**

Panel Sessions: 14h00 – 15h30		
<p><b>Panel session 4 (Hopper A/B)</b></p> <p><b>Social protection in the context of Inclusive development</b> (CoE and UNICEF)</p> <p><b>Moderator: Mia Harbitz</b>, Independent Consultant, Identity Management</p> <p><b>Andrei Gheorghe</b>, Legal counsellor, Ministry of Justice, Romania: <i>Civil registration documents at the core of the social protection system</i></p> <p><b>Ivan Arcos Axt</b>, Policy Advisor to the Ministry General Secretary of the Presidency, Chile</p> <p><b>Anette Bayer Forsingdal</b>, Director, National Population Register, Identification and Production, Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, Namibia: <i>Links between legal identity and accessing social services (including progress towards birth registration and quality vital statistics in Namibia)</i></p> <p><b>Arjan de Haan</b>, Program Leader, Employment and Growth program, IDRC: <i>Civil registration and economic empowerment: necessity, promises, challenges</i></p>	<p><b>Panel session 5 (Hopper C)</b></p> <p><b>The role of unique Identification systems</b> (World Bank)</p> <p><b>Moderator: Samuel Mills</b>, Senior Health Specialist, World Bank</p> <p><b>Sanjay Dharwadker</b>, Head of Global ID Consultancy, WCC Consulting EMEA: <i>Approaches that countries have employed to generate and assign unique identification number</i></p> <p><b>Nasser Jeeanody</b>, Chief Health Statistician at the Ministry of Health, Mauritius: <i>Use of unique identification number for universal death registration and certification cause of death</i></p> <p><b>Minah Kang</b>, Professor, Department of Public Administration, Ewha Woman's University, Korea: <i>Unique identification number for achieving universal health coverage in Korea</i></p> <p><b>Martina Zorko-Kodelja</b>, Consultant, Information Centre, Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia: <i>Unique identification number for achieving universal health coverage in Slovenia</i></p>	<p><b>Panel Session 6 (Pearson Boardroom)</b></p> <p><b>Legal Framework and Protection of Identities</b> (CoE)</p> <p><b>Moderator: Jacqueline Bhabha</b>, Professor, Practice of Health and Human Rights, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health &amp; Director of Research, Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights</p> <p><b>Srdjan Mrkić</b>, Chief, Demographic Statistics Section, UNSD: <i>UN legal framework for civil registration, vital statistics and identity management</i></p> <p><b>Philip Setel</b>, VP and Director, Civil Registration/Vital Statistics Program, Vital Strategies: <i>Lessons learnt from developing and implementing a legal framework tool</i></p> <p><b>Claire Brolan</b>, Postdoctoral Fellow, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto : <i>Emergency settings and routine death registration - a matter of law and life</i></p> <p><b>Zoran Đoković</b>, Adviser on Migration, Freedom of Movement and Human Contacts, OSCE-ODIHR: <i>Legal identity as an enabler of freedom of movement and legal frameworks for identity data processing</i></p>

15h30-15h45: Coffee/tea Break (Foyer outside Hopper A/B)

**Panel Sessions: 15h45 – 17h15**

<p><b>Panel session 7 (Hopper A/B)</b></p> <p><b>Health in the context of inclusive development</b> (WHO with CoE and UNICEF)</p> <p><b>Moderator: Anshu Banerjee</b>, Director (Global Coordination), Office of the Assistant Director-General in Family, Women’s and Children’s Health, WHO</p> <p><b>Debra Jackson</b>, Senior Health Specialist, UNICEF</p> <p><b>Maletela Tuoane-Nkhasi</b>, Senior Health Specialist – CRVS, GFF, World Bank: <i>Strengthening CRVS Systems through the RMNCAH-N agenda: Lessons from the GFF</i></p> <p><b>Boonchai Kijsanayotin</b>, Manager, Thai Health Information Standards Development Center (THIS), Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI), Ministry of Public Health, Thailand : <i>Health insurance and birth registration</i></p> <p><b>Bhaskar Mishra</b>, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF-Tanzania – <i>Bridging the Gap: Linking CRVS to Health Facilities</i></p> <p><b>Kathryn Banke</b>, Program Officer, BMGF: <i>Countrywide Mortality Surveillance for Action (COMSA): examples from the field</i></p> <p><b>Sana Naffa</b>, Senior Program Officer, CoE, IDRC : <i>CRVS as a social determinant of health</i></p>	<p><b>Panel session 8 (Pearson Boardroom)</b></p> <p><b>Contemporary examples in improving CRVS systems</b> (UNSD and UNFPA)</p> <p><b>Moderator and panelist: Srdjan Mrkić</b>, Chief, Demographic Statistics Section, UNSD: <i>Introduction to a contemporary holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and ID management</i></p> <p><b>Ani Mkhitarian</b>, Head, Office of the Civil Status Acts Registration Agency, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Armenia: <i>Innovating fast in CRVS</i></p> <p><b>Romesh Silva</b>, Technical Specialist, Health and Social Inequalities, UNFPA</p> <p><b>Josie B. Perez</b>, Assistant Secretary, Deputy National Statistician, Censuses and Technical Coordination Office, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), The Philippines</p> <p><b>Parvez Nayani</b>, Director, Academic Projects Afghanistan, Aga Khan University (AKU-PA)</p>	<p><b>Panel Session 9 (Hopper C)</b></p> <p><b>Digital Innovations and Scaling</b> (CoE)</p> <p><b>Moderator: Martin Bratschi</b>, Deputy Director, Technical Implementation for CRVS Improvement Program, Vital Strategies</p> <p><b>Murodillo Latifov</b>, Independent Management Consultant, Information and Communication Technologies, Tajikistan: <i>Experience of integrating DHIS 2 with CRVS</i></p> <p><b>Jane Thomason</b>, CEO, Abt Australia : <i>The challenge of testing and scaling new approaches to identification for empowerment in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia</i></p> <p><b>Claudine Henry-Anguna</b>, High Court Registrar &amp; Acting Justice Secretary, Cook Islands: <i>Cross – border data sharing – an experience from the Pacific Islands</i></p> <p><b>Dakota Gruener</b>, Executive Director, ID2020: <i>Interoperability and inclusive routes to scale</i></p>
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17h15 – 17h45

Day 1 Closing Plenary (*Hopper A/B*)

- Reflections

18h00 – 19h00

Cocktail Reception (*Nayudamma Lounge*)

- Welcome remarks by Joanne Charette, Vice-President, Corporate Strategy and Communications, IDRC

## DAY 2 CONFERENCE

### Day 2 Opening Plenary: 9:00 – 10:30 (*Hopper A/B*)

#### Panel session: Gender and emergencies

**Moderator:** **Dimitri Sanga**, Director, Sub-regional office for West Africa, UNECA

- **Cornelius Williams**, Associate Director & Global Chief of Child Protection, Programme Division, UNICEF
- **Shaida Badiee**, Managing Director, Open Data Watch
- **Rikke Munk Hansen**, Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, UNESCAP
- **Oliver Chinganya**, Director, African Centre for Statistics, UNECA
- **Josie B. Perez**, Assistant Secretary, Deputy National Statistician, Censuses and Technical Coordination Office, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), The Philippines
- **Jean-Louis Ville**, Head of Unit, Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance, DEVCO, European Commission
- **Anir Chowdhury**, Policy Advisor, azi Programme, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Bangladesh

10h30-10h45: Coffee/tea Break (*Foyer outside Hopper A/B*)

Innovation Labs: 10h45 – 12h15		
<p><b>Innovation Lab 1 (Hopper A/B - left corner)</b></p> <p><b>Transforming CRVS Systems:</b> Business process improvement to manage complexity</p> <p><b>Facilitator: Daniel Cobos Munoz</b>, Research Fellow, Health Systems and Policy Research Group, Swiss Tropical Health Institute</p> <p><b>Elias Mturi</b>, Professor, Dar el Salaam University, Tanzania</p> <p>Demonstration and discussion</p>	<p><b>Innovation Lab 2 (Hopper A/B right corner)</b></p> <p><b>Modern Data Analytics</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Prabhat Jha</b>, Professor, Global Health and Epidemiology, University of Toronto and Canada Research Chair at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Canada</p> <p><b>Mireille Gomes</b>, Associate Director, Strategy and Innovation, Centre for Global Health Research, St. Michael's Hospital and University of Toronto, Canada</p>	<p><b>Innovation Lab 3 (Hopper C)</b></p> <p><b>Health and CRVS</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Anshu Banerjee</b>, Director (Global Coordination), Office of the Assistant Director-General in Family, Women's and Children's Health, WHO</p> <p><b>Theresa Diaz</b>, Coordinator MCA/EME, WHO</p>
<p><b>Innovation Lab 4 (Pearson Boardroom) (in French/English)</b></p> <p><b>Human centred design:</b> Increased demand and utilization of services through community partnerships</p> <p><b>Facilitator: Irina Dincu</b>, Senior Programme Specialist, Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems, IDRC</p> <p><b>Kristen Wenz</b>, Child Protection Specialist &amp; Global Civil Registration and Legal Identity Technical Lead, UNICEF HQ</p>	<p><b>Innovation Lab 5 (Room 893)</b></p> <p><b>New Technologies:</b> Blockchain and Distributed Ledgers – implications for CRVS and ID</p> <p><b>Facilitator: Jane Thomason</b> CEO, Abt Australia</p> <p><b>Kyle Kemper</b>, Executive Director, Canada Blockchain Association</p>	<p><b>Innovation Lab 6 (Room 815) (in English)</b></p> <p><b>Open Systems:</b> Digital CRVS as a global good</p> <p><b>Facilitator: Edward Duffus</b>, Head of Innovations, Plan International HQ</p> <p><b>Annina Wersun</b>, Digital Birth Registration Projects Manager, Plan International</p> <p><b>Christopher Seebregts</b>, CEO, Jembi Health Systems NPC</p>

**12h15-13h30: Lunch (Foyer outside Pearson Boardroom)**

Innovation Labs: 13h30 – 15h15		
<p><b>Innovation Lab 7 (Hopper A/B - left corner)</b></p> <p><b>Transforming CRVS Systems:</b> Business process improvement to manage complexity</p> <p><b>Facilitator: Daniel Cobos Munoz</b>, Research Fellow, Health Systems and Policy Research Group, Swiss Tropical Health Institute</p> <p><b>Elias Mturi</b>, Professor, Dar el Salaam University, Tanzania</p> <p>Demonstration and discussion</p>	<p><b>Innovation Lab 8 (Hopper A/B right corner)</b></p> <p><b>Modern Data Analytics</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Prabhat Jha</b>, Professor, Global Health and Epidemiology, University of Toronto and Canada Research Chair at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Canada</p> <p><b>Mireille Gomes</b>, Associate Director, Strategy and Innovation, Centre for Global Health Research, St. Michael's Hospital and University of Toronto, Canada</p>	<p><b>Innovation Lab 9 (Hopper C)</b></p> <p><b>Health and CRVS</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Anshu Banerjee</b>, Director (Global Coordination), Office of the Assistant Director-General in Family, Women's and Children's Health, WHO</p> <p><b>Theresa Diaz</b>, Coordinator MCA/EME, WHO</p>
<p><b>Innovation Lab 10 (Pearson Boardroom) (in French/English)</b></p> <p><b>Human centred design:</b> Increased demand and utilization of services through community partnerships</p> <p><b>Facilitator: Irina Dincu</b>, Senior Programme Specialist, Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems, IDRC</p> <p><b>Kristen Wenz</b>, Child Protection Specialist &amp; Global Civil Registration and Legal Identity Technical Lead, UNICEF HQ</p>	<p><b>Innovation Lab 11 (Room 893)</b></p> <p><b>New Technologies</b></p> <p><b>New Technologies:</b> Blockchain and Distributed Ledgers – implications for CRVS and ID</p> <p><b>Facilitator: Jane Thomason</b> CEO, Abt Australia</p> <p><b>Kyle Kemper</b>, Executive Director, Canada Blockchain Association</p>	<p><b>Innovation Lab 12 (Room 815) (in French)</b></p> <p><b>Open Systems:</b> Digital CRVS as a global good</p> <p><b>Facilitator: Edward Duffus</b>, Head of Innovations, Plan International HQ</p>

**15h15-16h00: Coffee/tea Break (Foyer outside Hopper A/B)**

16h00 – 17h30

**Closing Plenary: Putting it all together (Hopper A/B)**

- Review of sessions, discussions and Ideas Labs (60 minutes)
- Discussion of strategic areas of interest ( lead on the discussion - Statistics Division and the Chair of the Global CRVS Group)
- Agreement on priorities for further development ( at least 15 minutes – led by UNSD )



**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**  
for CRVS Systems



**World Health  
Organization**

