



United Nations Legal Identity Agenda

Srdjan Mrkić
United Nations Legal Identity Task Force

51st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission
Side event on United Nations Legal Identity Agenda: Holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics
and identity management
4 March 2020, United Nations, New York



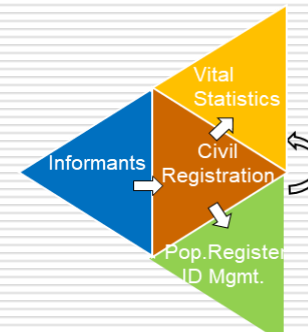
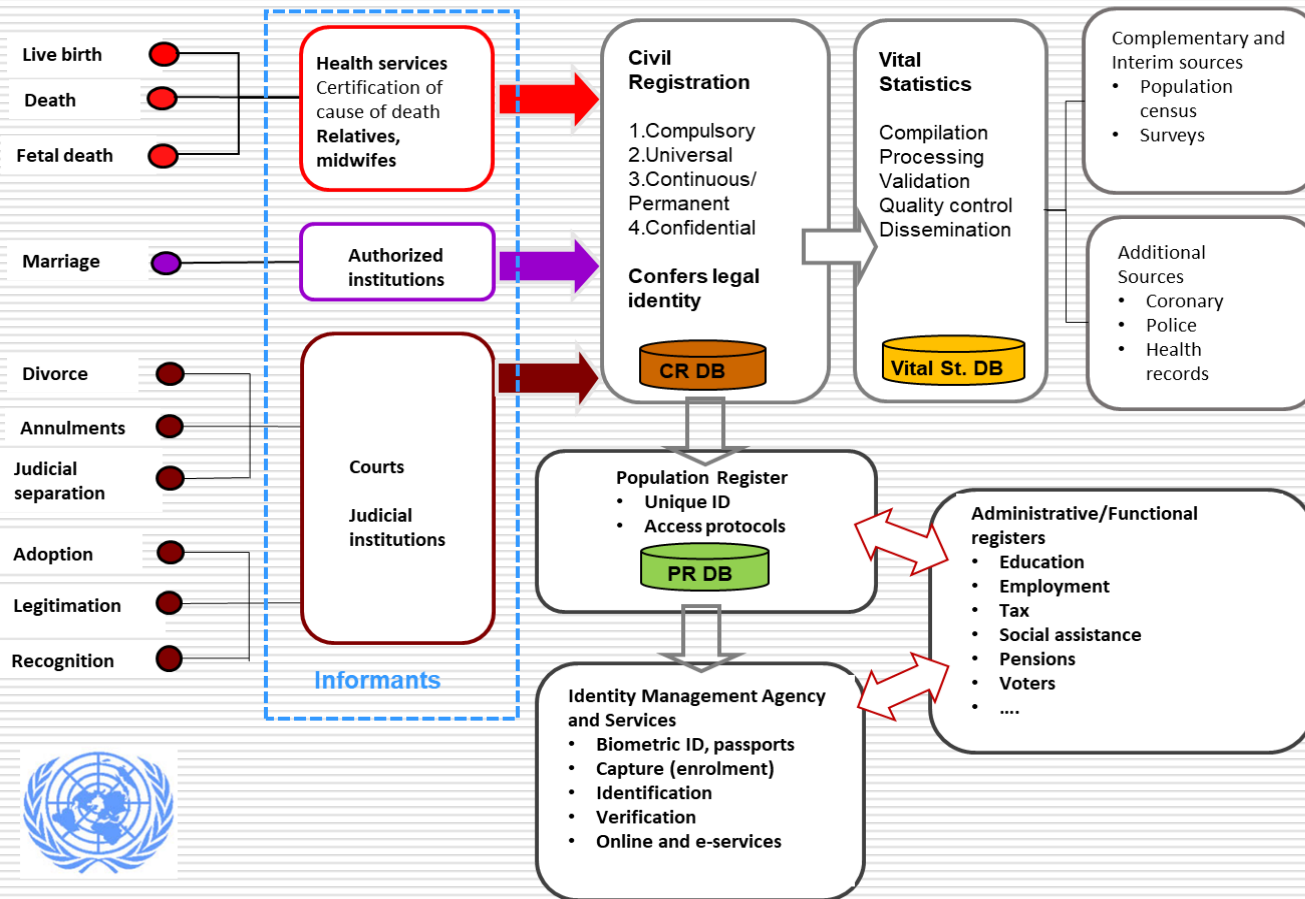
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❑ Definition of legal identity

- ❑ Legal identity is defined as the basic characteristics of an individual's identity, e.g. name, sex, place and date of birth conferred through registration and the issuance of a certificate by an authorized civil registration authority following the occurrence of birth. In the absence of birth registration, legal identity may be conferred by a legally-recognized identification authority; this system should be linked to the civil registration system to ensure a holistic approach to legal identity from birth to death. Legal identity is retired by the issuance of a death certificate by the civil registration authority upon registration of death.
- ❑ In the case of refugees, Member States are primarily responsible for issuing proof of legal identity. The issuance of proof of legal identity to refugees may also be administered by an internationally recognized and mandated authority



Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management System



Simplified flow

This model represents a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management recommended by the United Nations, adapted from the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3*; it can be adjusted to national circumstances and governing structures as necessary.





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- ❑ The UN Legal Identity Agenda consists of the holistic approach to complete civil registration and universal registration of all vital events, production of vital statistics, the establishment and maintenance of population registers and identity management apparatus from birth to death, and there should be full interoperability between these functions in a simultaneous manner, according to international standards and recommendations. All Member States should adopt and implement this agenda as a systematic and perpetual mechanism for ensuring legal identity for all.



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- ❑ Member States should adopt and implement the holistic approach to:
 - ❑ universal civil registration of all vital events;
 - ❑ production of regular, reliable, accurate and small area vital statistics;
 - ❑ the establishment and maintenance of population registers and identity management apparatus from birth to death while ensuring the confidentiality and privacy of individual records
- ❑ There should be full interoperability between these functions simultaneously, in accordance with international standards and recommendations



United Nations Legal Identity Agenda

- ❑ United Nations Legal Identity Expert Group
 - ❑ Established by the Deputy Secretary-General in September 2018
 - ❑ Co-chaired by UNDESA, UNICEF and UNDP
 - ❑ Membership: IOM, OHCHR, UNECA, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UN Global Pulse, UNHCR, UN WOMEN and WFP
 - ❑ Transitioned into the UN Legal Identity Agenda Task Force, Dec. 2019
 - ❑ Four pillars:
 - ❑ Coordinated approach for implementation, focusing on developing and adopting operational definition of legal identity, developing coordinated strategy paper on achieving legal identity for all, formulating the UN Legal Identity Agenda, and producing UNCT Guidelines for Implementation of UN LIA at the National Level;
 - ❑ Evidence for Action, focusing on developing hard data for illustrating the costs of inaction, both in terms of securing legal identity for all as well as failing to properly monitor the implementation of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and on addressing issues related to legal identity in humanitarian settings
 - ❑ One Voice, focusing on developing guidelines for communication for development in the context of UN LIA for stakeholders at national level, ensuring promotion of UN LIA to as broad audience as possible by developing UN LIEG communication and advocacy strategy and ensuring the promotion of UN LIA at high-level events;
 - ❑ Financing the implementation of UN LIA, focusing on animating donors and establishing a Multi Partner Trust Fund.

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United Nations Methodological Framework

- ❑ Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, United Nations 2014
- ❑ Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Management, Operation and Maintenance, Revision 1, United Nations 2018
- ❑ Guidelines on the Legislative Framework for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management, United Nations 2019
- ❑ Handbook on civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems: Communication for development, United Nations 2019
- ❑ UN Strategy Paper on Legal Identity for All, 2019
- ❑ United Nations Country Team LIA Guidelines, 2020