

Declaration of the Virtual Assembly Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Council for Civil Registry, Identity and Vital Statistics

The member states of the Latin American and Caribbean Council for Civil Registry, Identity and Vital Statistics (CLARCIEV), meeting in the Extraordinary Virtual Assembly, declare that:

RECALLING that, the first Ministerial Meeting and of National Authorities of the Americas on the Right to Identity, held in Mexico City in September 2016, recognized CLARCIEV as the only regional and cooperation forum specialized in issues related to the Right of Identity and the Universal and Timely Registration of Births;

CONSIDERING that the recognition and promotion of people's identities protects the exercise of the rights to a name, nationality, registration in the civil registry, family relationships, legal personality, among other rights recognized in international instruments such as the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights and understanding that the exercise of these rights is essential for the consolidation of any democratic society;

CONSIDERING that Goal 16, "to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies...", of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, includes goal 16.9, "by 2030, to provide access to a legal identity for all, in particular through birth registration";

RECOGNIZING that CLARCIEV is strengthened every year, and its main mission is that all people have their right to identity guaranteed, promoting joint work plans that allow member states to exchange experiences and good practices, facilitate the exchange of information and learn about technologies and systems, to create better mechanisms that guarantee identity and promote new identification arrangements;

RECALLING that the resolution of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, instructs the Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA by its Spanish acronym) to continue the strengthening and interoperability of civil registry systems, with safeguards in favor of people in need of international protection, in order to guarantee access to universal birth registration to ensure a legal identity for all people, as well as the enjoyment of human rights, especially for populations in situations of vulnerability and displacement, as well as to eradicate statelessness;

REITERATING the importance of interoperability between civil registries, both nationally and internationally, as a mechanism to gain efficiencies, improve resource management and facilitate access to rights and compliance with obligations, as well as to generate a framework of institutional trust that guarantees an exercise of rights in conditions of equality, non-

discrimination and free of problems, conducive to social inclusion and that fosters regional cooperation and cross-border integration;

RECALLING the fundamental role of the Civil Registry and Identification offices in the prevention and eradication of statelessness and the risk of statelessness, especially in situations of large mixed movements of refugees and migrants, in fulfilling their obligation, to register timely and late births, the granting of identity documents, and the recognition and granting of nationality of stateless migrants, in accordance with the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-2024, the 2014 Brazil Action Plan, and the Mechanism of UNHCR's "Towards Zero Statelessness" Evaluation and Monitoring;

REITERATING the importance of establishing a unique, safe and precise identity as a fundamental right of all people to guarantee access to their human rights, as well as the importance of the inclusion of people in vulnerable situations, such as asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons, in the national civil registration systems, through the interoperability of national systems, as a measure to guarantee the right to identity of these populations;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the COVID-19 pandemic has put the focus on the importance and relevance of the Civil Registry as an essential activity in all countries, both to guarantee the right to identity and to provide timely information to the health authorities for decision taking; it has also affected the regular provision of services to the population, prompting the institutions responsible for civil registration, identity and identification to develop strategies for the provision of services in a safe manner, complying with health protocols, making use of the technologies within their reach and redefining public policies that make it possible to cope with the emergency produced by the pandemic; in order to guarantee as a priority the right to identity for the entire population and to register births and deaths in a timely manner;

RECOGNIZING that the rate of under-registration of births in the region has decreased considerably, and that in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, national strategies and work programs must be strengthened, to prevent the pandemic from affecting these achievements, making it possible to achieve by 2030 universal registration in all the countries of the region;

CONSIDERING that the right to identity goes beyond the issuance of a birth certificate, and that the CLARCIEV member states must collaborate so that the registration of all acts of the civil status of persons is guaranteed, in order to integrate better administrative records, strengthen population statistics and move to interoperability schemes for civil identity;

CONSCIOUS, that advances in technology allow member states to transition to digital identity and identification, that the exchange of successful practices in the region and other parts of the world, the due protection of personal data and access to information must be pillars that allow for regional advancement, so that access to human rights and their exercise in each of our countries is effective, easy and safe.

AGREE AND RESOLVE:

1. Strengthen civil registration and identity services as they are an essential activity for the population, which must be provided uninterrupted by the member countries, seeking alternative channels to guarantee continuity in the provision of services and enhance their presence as a strategic institution for decision-making in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to continue to operate in such a way as to guarantee the offer of registry services and identity. Invite and motivate civil registry entities to strengthen their services in times of emergency.
2. That the countries that are part of the Executive Committee 2018-2020 extend their leaderships posts until the next Ordinary General Assembly is held in 2021, in which the next Executive Committee must be elected. In the event that sanitary conditions do not allow a face-to-face meeting to be held in 2021, an Ordinary General Assembly must be convened virtually, in which the new Executive Committee must be elected for the 2021-2023 period.
3. Encourage cooperation mechanisms among its members and the incorporation of information technologies to have robust and secure civil registration, identity and identification systems, promoting the exchange of successful experiences and good practices in human resources, information technology, statistics, and documentation practices.
4. Share information on the innovative practices implemented by member states to deal with the pandemic as well as on the strategies planned to close possible gaps in the registration of vital events and the issuance of identity and identification documents.
5. Continue to function as a regional forum to promote the universal registration of births, the granting of identity documents that prove nationality and to promote actions to prevent and resolve statelessness.
6. Promote the development and implementation of national, bilateral and multilateral projects aimed at achieving the goal of eradicating statelessness, especially in the context of large movements of refugees and migrants, in collaboration and with the support of UNHCR and international and regional cooperation institutions, and civil society, when appropriate.
7. Promote compliance with the commitments made by CLARCIEV within the framework of the High Level Segment on statelessness led by UNHCR.
8. Consider, once it is distributed among the members, the adoption of the recommendations of the “Regional Guideline to guarantee effective access to late registration of births and the granting of identity documents that prove nationality” developed by UNHCR in coordination with the OAS and CLARCIEV.
9. Promote the CLARCIEV 2020-2025 Strategic Plan as a guide for the development and implementation of CLARCIEV projects and define long-term organizational objectives and work plans for the following period.

10. Promote the strengthening of human talent capacities, through the publication of the CLARCIEV magazine, through academic documents that can be published in the CLARCIEV Virtual Community, and maintain synergies with the countries with a view to promoting growth human.
11. Strengthen the legal repository on the CLARCIEV web portal with the regulations corresponding to the protection of personal data, including the new management schemes derived from the procedures to accredit and protect digital identities, as well as issues of migrants and people in a situation of vulnerability.
12. Carry out the procedures within the member countries in order to sign the Interinstitutional Coordination Agreements that could allow the interoperability of the databases, as well as to adopt unique formats for the certification of the records of birth, paying special attention to people that are part of existing migration flows in the region, in order to guarantee their human right to identity.
13. Make CLARCIEV visible in matters related to identity, identification and civil registration in the Caribbean region. Highlight the importance of the participation of the countries of the Caribbean region within CLARCIEV and promote multilateral spaces to position them and integrate the region, strengthening values of union and cooperation to advance on the path of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals - ODS, especially point 16.9, which refers to universal registration and the guarantee of access to rights through registration and identification.
14. Promote among the member states the commitment of visibility and dissemination of the actions of CLARCIEV and its member countries through the strengthening of the communications strategy that includes the WEB page, the virtual community and the Council's social networks.
15. To thank the support, advice and contribution that the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) has always given to CLARCIEV, through the Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas, and the invaluable support of the Agency of the United Nations Organization for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to move forward CLARCIEV activities.

Signing sheet Declaration of the Virtual Assembly October 23rd 2020

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018-2020

COUNTRY		NAME & POSITION	SIGNATURE
	Colombia Presidency	Alexander Vega Rocha National Civil Registry	
	Panamá First Vicepresidency	Gilberto Estrada de Icaza Boris Corcho Diaz National Direction de Identification	
	Panamá First Vicepresidency	Sharon Sinclair de Dumanoir Civil Registry National Direction	
	Costa Rica Second Vicepresidency	Luis Antonio Bolaños Bolaños Civil Registry National Direction	
	México Third Vicepresidency	Jorge L. Wheatley Fernández General Director National Registry of Population and Identity	
	Chile Fourth Vicepresidency	Sergio Mierzejewski Lafferte National Director of Civil Registry and Identification Service	
	Ecuador Fifth Vicepresidency	Rodrigo Aviles Jaramillo General Direction of Civil Registry, Identification and ID	

MEMBERS COUNTRIES

COUNTRY		NAME & POSITION	SIGNATURE
	Antigua y Barbuda	Laurie Freeland-Roberts Registrar Civil Registry Department	
	Argentina	Santiago Rodríguez National Director of National Register of Persons	
	Bolivia	Salvador Romero Ballivian President of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal	
	El Salvador	Federico Guillermo Guerrero National Registry of Natural Persons	
	Haití	Jude Jacques Elibert Office National D'Identification	
	Honduras	Roberto Brevé President Commissioner of the National Registry of Persons	
	Jamaica	Charlton McFarlane CEO of the Registrar General's Department	
	Nicaragua	José Ignacio Juárez Registro Central del Estado Civil de las Personas	
	Paraguay	Luis Alcibiades Esquivel Sánchez Central Registry of Civil Status of Persons	
	Perú	Carmen Velarde Koechlin National Head of the National Registry of Identification and Civil Status	
	República Dominicana	Dolores Fernández Director of the Civil Registry, Central Electoral Board	

	Uruguay	<p>Jose Luis Rondan Godoy General Director of Civil Identification</p>	
	Uruguay	<p>Adriana Martinez Director of Civil Status Registry</p>	