

**Regional Workshop on Promoting the Right to a Nationality for Women and  
Children in the Implementation of CEDAW and CRC in ASEAN:  
ACWC-UNHCR Potential Partnership**

**19 August 2013, Da Nang, Viet Nam**

**Recommendations**

The Regional Workshop on the Promoting the Right to Nationality for Women and Children in the implementation of CEDAW and CRC in ASEAN held jointly by the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Viet Nam (MOLISA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on 19 August 2013 in Da Nang City, Viet Nam recommend the following concrete actions to promote the right to a nationality of women and children in ASEAN Member States for the consideration of the relevant ASEAN bodies.

1. Undertake a regional study on issues of nationality in the region, and national legal frameworks, policies, action plans and strategies of ASEAN Member States on nationality building on current and existing research. The regional study could examine the issues relating to the entitlement to and transmission of citizenship under the law, marriage, birth registration, migration, trafficking in persons, and statelessness, and recommend strategies aiming at strengthening the promotion and protection of the right to nationality of women and children;
2. Undertake capacity building activities to promote gender and child sensitivity of enforcement agencies, local government officials and other public bodies and their understanding on the rights of women and children as stipulated in CEDAW, CRC and other relevant international instruments, particularly on the right to a nationality and determination of the best interests of the child;
3. Provide technical assistance, upon request and as appropriate, to ASEAN Member States in the implementation of the Concluding Observations of CEDAW and CRC particularly concerning the right to nationality, and, for those ASEAN Member States who wish to pursue the study of the possibilities of accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Person, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and other international instruments on the status of refugees, statelessness and migrant workers, ratification of the Optional Protocols of CEDAW and CRC, and/or potential review and withdrawal of any relevant reservations;
4. Support ASEAN Member States who are working towards universal birth registration by improving access to birth registration and streamlining the policies and administration requirements of birth registration especially amongst women and children in rural and border areas, belonging to ethnic and/or indigenous groups, street children, women married to foreigners, internally displaced persons

(IDPs), migrants, refugees, victims of trafficking, children of undocumented migrants, and other groups of women and children affected by statelessness;

5. Assist ASEAN Member States in improving access to information and raising public awareness especially amongst people in rural, urban, and remote areas as well as those living in poverty on the possible consequences arising from circumventing the prevailing national laws, policies, and procedures on marriage and birth registrations in order to help realize the right to a nationality;
6. Assist ASEAN Member States in strengthening their capacity in data collection and national databases of marriage and birth registrations through sharing of good practices and lessons learnt including the application of information technology, such as online registration systems;
7. Strengthen inter-sectoral cooperation and coordination amongst the relevant ASEAN bodies at regional level and government agencies at national level, as well as partnerships with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies with relevant Mandates, including UNHCR, UN Women and UNICEF, existing national human rights mechanisms, community leaders, and civil society, in promoting and protecting the right to nationality of women and children at regional and national levels through the promotion of relevant research, identification of additional areas for study, capacity building, and other areas of mutual concern.
8. Develop further collaboration between ACWC, UNHCR, other UN Agencies and other relevant ASEAN bodies to contribute to the promotion and protection of the right to nationality for women and children in ASEAN Member States and in particular to contribute to the implementation of these recommendations.

These recommendations are submitted to ASEAN Member States and the relevant ASEAN bodies including, but not limited to, ACWC, ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), Senior Officials Meeting on Health and Development (SOMHD) and Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), as well as to UNHCR, UN Women, UNICEF and other UN Agencies with relevant mandates for consideration and deliberation on specific plans to implement relevant recommended actions.

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