Opening Statement of H.E. Dr Nazemi Ardakani, Deputy Minister of the Interior and Head of National Organisation for Civil Registration of Iran

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In the Name of God

Honourable directors, managers and experts of Civil Status Registration Organizations of Islamic Conference Members

Greeting

Thank you for attending in this meeting and I am pleased of having the honour of hosting you. My colleagues and I appreciate your participation.

I start with expressing hope for more interactions of Islamic countries for realizing a safe world and a suitable ground for the improvement and perfection of humankind.

We believe that synergy of capacities and experiences in Islamic countries, will provide a suitable ground for promoting government in organization's member countries and prepare grounds for offering a good Islamic government model. The goal of this meeting, as the Civil Status Organization is proud of it- is to make grounds for the realization of this great goal.

I would like to inform that in this meeting, Iranian Organization has benefitted from the contributions and assistances of the Statistics, Economy, Social, Research and Education Centre (SESRIC) of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

Furthermore, the Civil Status Registration Organization has already held the Conference of Heads and Experts of Civil Status Registry of OIC member countries, followed by holding educational course in Tehran. In addition, it has hosted the Meeting of Ambassadors and Representatives of OIC member countries.

In this regards, I would like to share you the recent years achievements of Civil Status Registration Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I feel obliged to inform that the Iranian organization has been passing through its procedural, structural and functional modernization path in recent years and is heading towards being introduced as a good and advanced organization.

The Iranian Civil Status Registration Organization as a governmental and sub-structural organization has the duty of:

- Registry of the four vital events

- Issuance of ID. Documents for Iranians across the country and in world

- Production and release of population statistics and immigration information

One of the important functions of this Organization is to play role in determining and confirming identity. It is based on this function that Civil Status Registration Organization is considered as governmental and authoritative organizations. In addition, changes in the process of entering the name and surname, changes in titles…are engineered via Civil Status Registration Organization. Furthermore, official documents that are issued by Civil Status Registration Organization such as birth certificate and national ID. Card not only indicates the personal identity of the Iranians, but also it shows the collective identify of the country in uniform and single documents that are distinguishable from identity documents of other countries.

Another special task of this organization is to help in promoting the efficiency of the government. In this regards, the first and most important subject is the need to human information and statistics which is produced and released by Civil Status Registration Organization.

In addition, entry to the E-government era; too, requires confirming the individuals' identity in virtual space and intelligent national ID is the key to this task. By recognizing that necessity on time, the Civil Status Registration Organization has taken measures to perform this highly important and strategic task.

Modernization period:

Modernization era of this Organization has been started in recent years and is reaching its final stages with high acceleration and its conclusion will introduce this organization as an advanced organization.

In the procedural, structural and functional modernization period of the Civil Status Registration Organization, authenticity of identity documents is the most important and core

of principles and designing changes is performed based on the priority of this important principal.

Authenticity is the important chapter of services of this organization and in modernization chapter; it is the significant distinction of this organization with many counter regional and international organizations and its similarity with advanced and pioneer organizations around the world. National intelligent card as the icon of this functional change is the key and gate to enter into E-government.

Another important issue in modernization of Civil Status Registration Organization is facilitation of receiving services by people and observing clients' rights.

What happened in modernization period?

In this connection:

- In vital event registry area, despite the vast area of the country, the statistics show that around 96% of birth events and 94.5% of deaths are registered within the legal deadline of 15 and 10 days; however, measures have been taken to intensify requirement for registry of events in legal deadline.

- In application of demographic information base of the country as the most important identification source in Iran, there are more than 80 online links to this base and their executive operations including identity confirmation and search is performed property and fast with no need to paper documents.

- For the improvement of safety and protection factors in handling document and papers issuance and to issue in mechanized form, so far, all identity cards (birth certificates) are printed by considering security characteristics with high safety level in one hundred per cent mechanized way.

- Regarding the production and publication of demographic and population statistics and information too, the Civil Status Registration Organization has recognized this critical need and has performed good activities in the registry, analysis and releasing demographic statistics in the country to meet the statistical demands of this section and prevent multiple sources in releasing statistics, its problems and large costs of collecting statistics and information, and to create an updated and comprehensive statistics to be used in different fields of health, economy, social, welfare, cultural…

- By aiming at providing a ground to share information of offices for the purpose of expanding effective and fast services, the electronic archive of ID. Documents, the Iranian organization has designed and implemented electronic archive of documents (including birth and death certificates) and by operation of that archive and establishing electronic link network, all departments will have access to each other's documents and services could be provided with no need to the local civil status registration office that issued the identity card and merely through the referred department. In addition, we could enjoy promoting safety factor and documents security. This has led to the updating, precision and facilitation in service provision by the Civil Status Registration Organization and promotes this organization into an E-organization.

- Development of assigning activities to non-governmental sectors; in this regards, to expand people's access to civil status registration services, the Civil Status Registration Organization of Iran, in collaboration with private sector has established national ID. Electronic service counters.

- Completion of demographic information base (Data Centre)

- Establishment of terminal for change in address in country for the registry of in-bound movements or local migration and immigration to abroad, and to provide place-core statistics

- Electronic registry of marriage and divorce events

- Removal the judiciary aspects from some of the civil status registration services

- Providing electronic services

- Presently, various ID services are available for the Iranian inside and outside the country through website of Civil Status Registration Organization.

- To absorb social participation and popular institutes collaboration in registry of events; for this purpose, the network for declaring vital events registry with the participation of executive agents of governmental entities in rural and tribal regions such as health houses, district governors, teachers, post offices, rural and tribal cooperatives and in regions with no such representatives, the organization has been made through local trustees. Presently, this network consists of 53 thousand representatives across the

country that informs the events as executive arms of the Civil Status Registration departments.

- National ID card, this card is the key to E-government terminal.

I once again extend my best appreciation and gratitude for attending this meeting and I wish for interaction for the purpose of synergy of capacities and experiences for promoting cooperation levels in OIC.

Thank you