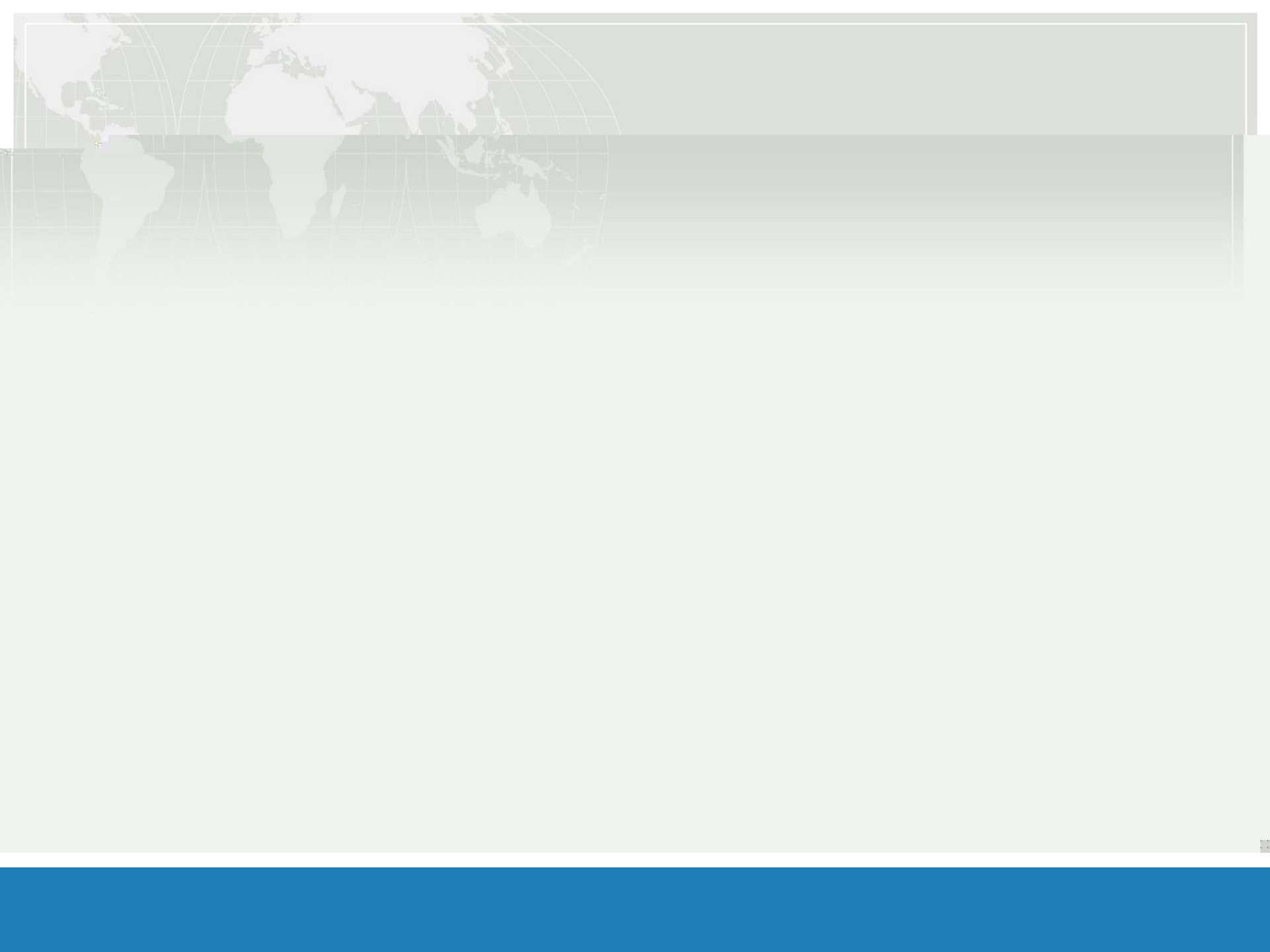


# Brief overview of death registration data availability based on international reporting to WHO

Colin Mathers

UN EGM on completeness and quality of vital statistics from civil registration, Nov. 2016

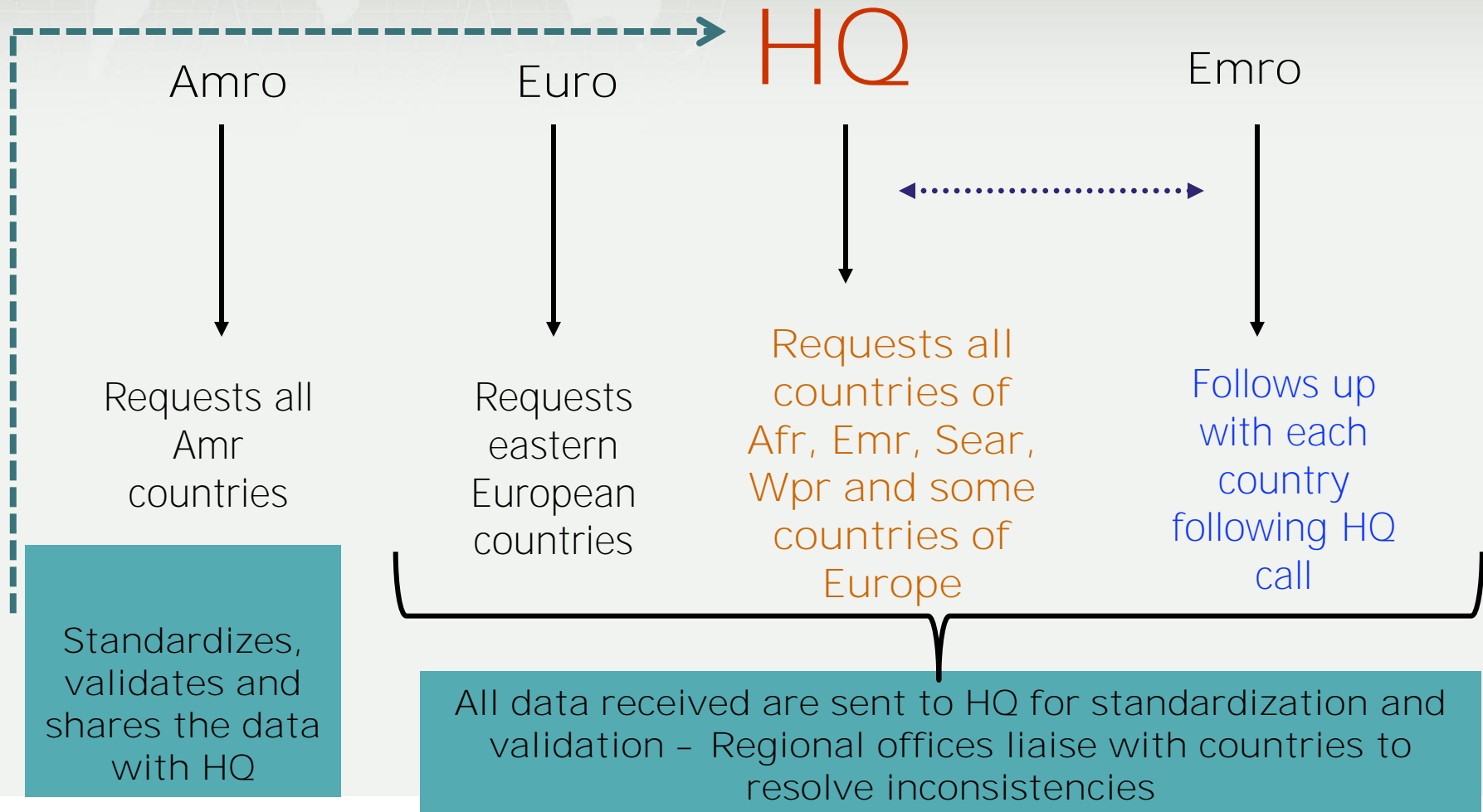




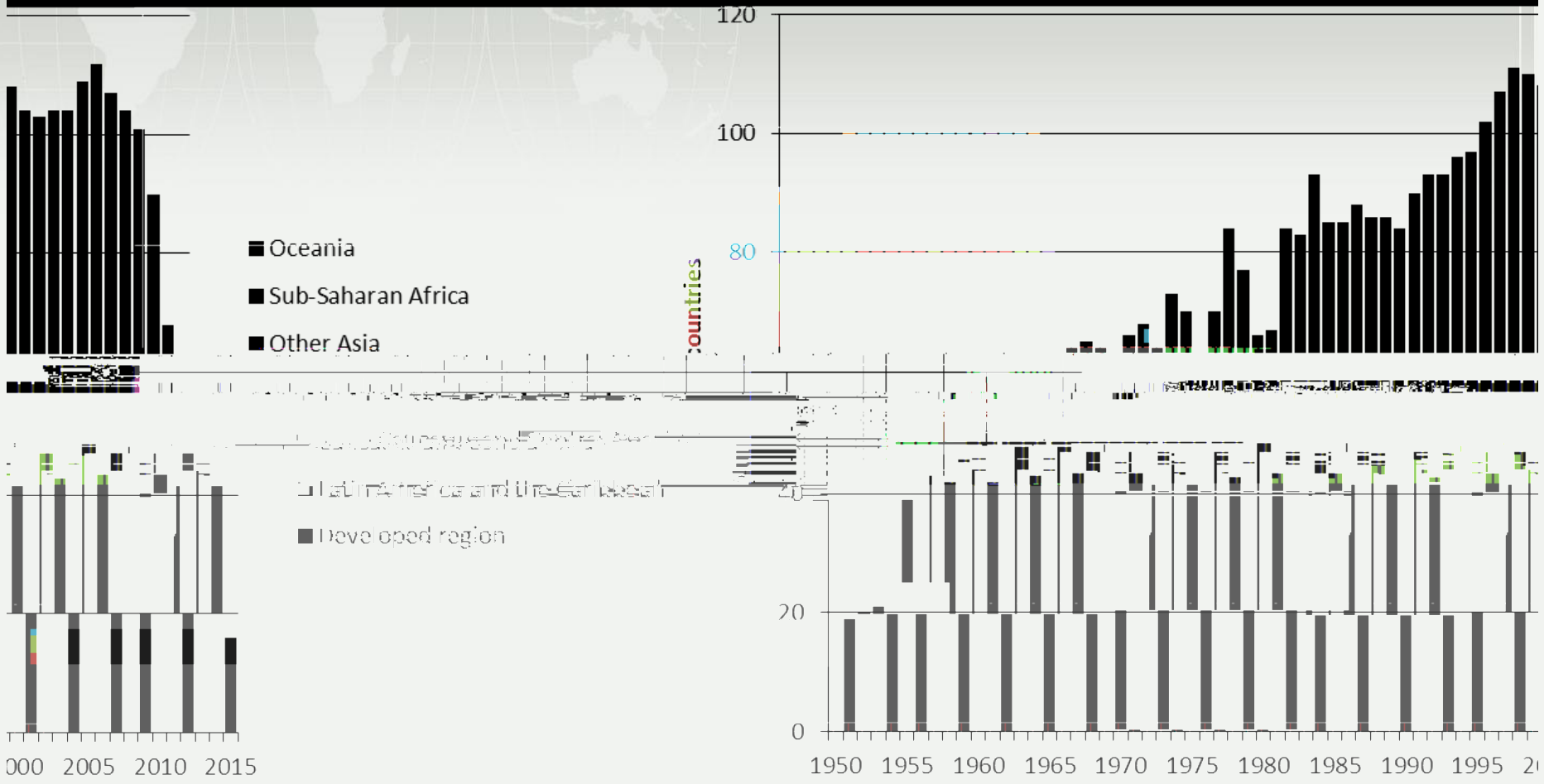
# Mechanism for cause-of-death data collection



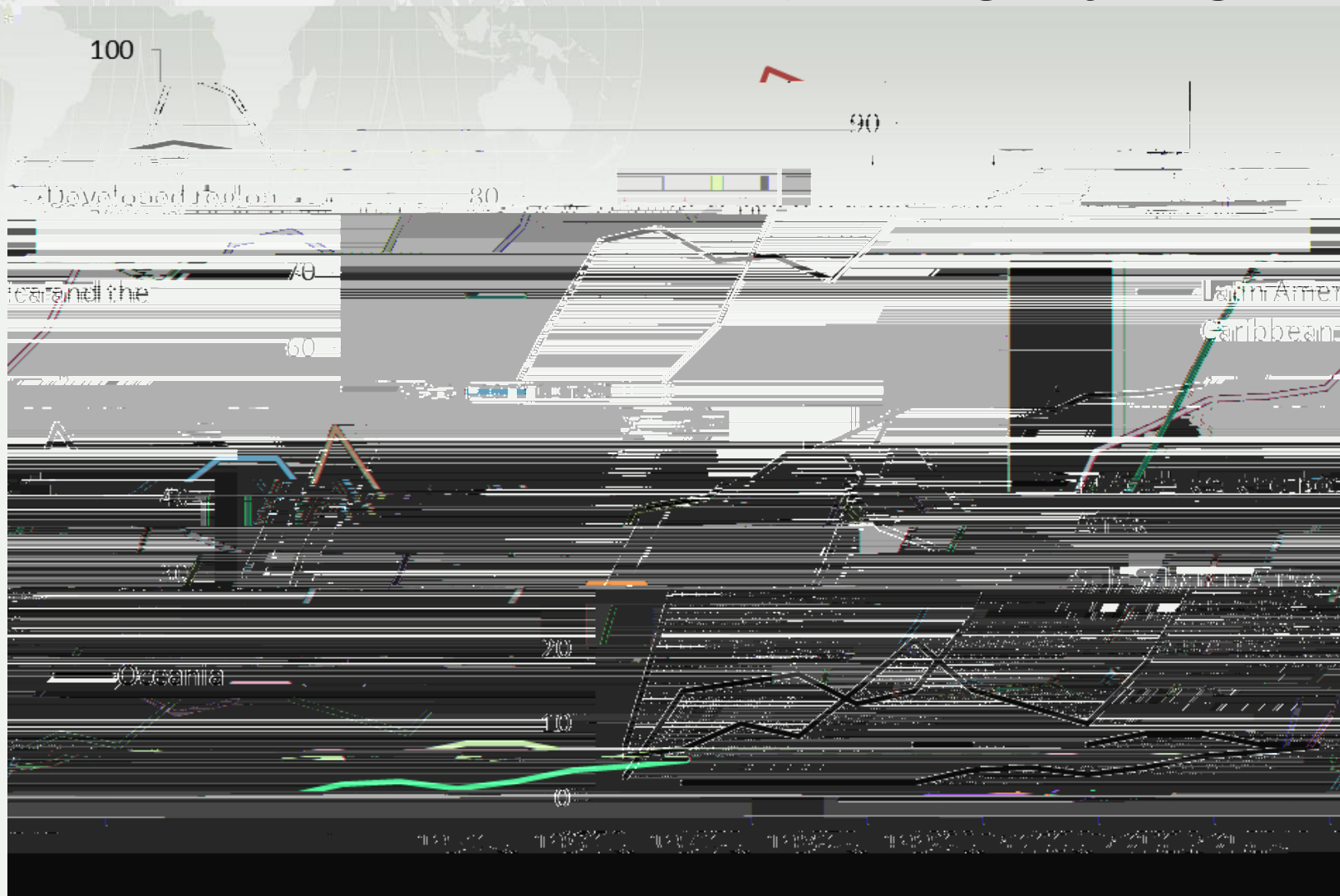
# Mechanism for cause-of-death data standardization and validation



# Number of countries reporting to WHO by region and year



# Per cent of countries reporting, by region



# Data comparability issues

Preference: data by year of occurrence, but unclear when data are received

Not always clear if data are for residents or citizens or include non-residents

Total deaths from CoD data are in most cases subsets of the total deaths from population registers. E.g. Israel, Iran

Very few countries align the total number of deaths in their CoD data set with the number from population registers

Some countries provide population data, but not usually consistent updated time-series, or compatible with UN population estimates

Because of confidentiality issues, some countries are unwilling to share the data by 5-year age-group

Reporting age format mostly 5 year age groups to 95+ or 85+ but some variation in final age group (65, 75) and some 10 year age group data

# Country data issues

Cyprus: data for government-controlled areas

Palestine: data for West Bank only

Georgia: exclude Abkhazia and South Osetia

Moldova: exclude Transnistria and Bender

Russian Fed: exclude Chechenya (1993-2003)  
but include Chechenya as from 2004

Serbia: exclude Kosovo-Metohija province

Ukraine: exclude non-government controlled  
areas as from 2014







## Data availability for all-cause mortality

Available recent data (since 2005)	Number of WHO Member States <sup>a</sup>	Percentage of global deaths in 2015 <sup>b</sup>	Methods
Death-registration data with completeness >=90%	59	28	Observed death rates
Incomplete death-registration data	38	25	Adjusted death rates
Other population-representative data on			

<sup>a</sup> With population above 90 000 in 2015.

<sup>b</sup> Total deaths that occur in the countries with data, not total registered deaths



# Improved coverage in countries

South Africa:	~ 50% in 1990s	→	~ 90% in 2014
Turkey:	~ 50% in 2007		~ 85% in 2013
Iran:	~ 40% in 2001		~ 70% in 2014
China:	~ 9% in 2000		? >50% in 2015



# SDG Indicator 17.19.2 Proportion of countries that have achieved 80% death registration



# Momentum for Improvement in VR systems

Ministerial commitments – Africa, Asia, Pacific, Latin Americas, Middle East

Global Commitments – SDGs, G7 Health Ministers,

Global Health –

WHO (Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, CoIA, African Technical Strategy for Improving Mortality Statistics)

Canada and the World Bank (Global Financing Facility)

Health Partnerships for Countries – WHO working with Global Fund, UNICEF, CDC, Bloomberg, Regional Partnerships

## Ministerial Statement: African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, 12 and 13 February 2015

- ....Recognizing that the Ebola epidemic has shown that the need for death registration and real time cause-of-death information is no longer optional but critical;
- ....Realizing the centrality of civil registration based vital statistics in providing data to inform