

Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid
International Plan of Action on Ageing
Bangkok, 12-14 September 2017

Name of speaker: (Mr.) (Ms.) ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE REPRESENTATIVE
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Country/Organization: PHILIPPINE MISSION TO UNESCAP

Please indicate the agenda item on which you wish to speak:

Agenda Item No: 3 - COUNTRY STATEMENTS

If you have a prepared statement, the Secretariat would find it most useful if you could kindly provide us with a copy, preferably in electronic format or hardcopy (typed or handwritten), for use by those listed below:

- Interpretation
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STATEMENT BY THE PHILIPPINES
Asia Pacific IGM on Population Ageing
12 September 2017

Excellencies, distinguished representatives, good afternoon! We wish to take this opportunity to share experiences of the Philippines in addressing the challenges of an ageing population.

In the 2015 Census, our total population was 100.98 million. The estimated population of older persons, aged 60 years and above, was around 7.6 million (7.5% of the total population) and is expected to increase to 14.3 million in 2030 (11% of the total population). The number of female older persons is relatively higher to male older persons.

The Philippines is also confronted with several issues related to ageing such as security, occurrence of abuses committed against the older person, health issues, and the economic impact of ageing on overall welfare.

As a country that recognizes the contribution of older persons in nation building, we remain steadfast in implementing programs and services that aim to promote and protect the welfare of the older persons or senior citizens. Senior citizens in the Philippines have traditionally received due care and concern from their families and the state. This is reflected in the 1987 Philippine Constitution and several related laws.

Anchored on various international commitments and the Philippine Constitution and related laws, the Philippine Government implements projects in the areas of employment and livelihood opportunities, healthcare, education, pension and insurance, other social services, incentives, recreation and social activities, and access to transportation, among other benefits and privileges. Worthy to highlight are the Social Pension Program of the government which provides a monthly stipend amounting to Php 500 or US 10 \$ to indigent senior citizens to augment their daily subsistence, medical needs of the eligible senior citizen age 60 years and above, the mandatory healthcare coverage provided by our Philippine Health Insurance Corporation and other social safety nets to help address the adverse effects of economic crisis, disasters and calamities.

We also developed the Philippine Plan of Action for Senior Citizens as a blueprint for policy and decision makers and key stakeholders, putting more concrete actions on goals and objectives identified to achieve its vision of *"a society for all ages where the senior citizens are empowered to achieve active ageing"*.

To improve our response to ageing, the Philippines is looking at the passage of legislation such as the Long-Term Care Act, Family Care Act, and Anti-Senior Citizens Abuse Act. We are also working on the full social pension coverage, review of related laws, establishment of a Council or Commission for the Welfare of Older Persons, and the development of a National Decade Plan for the Filipino Family.

The Philippine Government is also spearheading the implementation of action lines in the Strategic Framework for Social Welfare and Development in the ASEAN, specifically through the ASEAN Active Ageing Cooperation Project and the Establishment of the ASEAN Family Network.

Excellencies, this year marks the Philippine Chairmanship of ASEAN, which coincides with the golden anniversary of the organization. Our theme “Partnering for Change, Engaging the World,” reflects our advocacy to foster cooperation within the region and with external partners. We wish to realize an ASEAN that is people-oriented and people-centered. Through our key thematic priorities, we aim to strengthen regional integration, support the realization of the ASEAN Vision 2025, and contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.