Good day!

Let me congratulate the United Nations - Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights for its multi-stakeholder meeting on senior citizens.

The Republic Act No.11350 in the Republic of the Philippines is a milestone document that created the Office of the National Commission of Senior Citizens that gives a pension to senior citizens, under the Office of the President.

Even as we face different challenges, the issues of health for instance; becomes one of the serious concerns because of the recent phenomenon of (the) COVID (pandemic) and the (other) overarching concerns for the health of the senior citizens.

We need to give attention to the senior citizen on (providing) an annual medical examination so that we would be able to give focus on the requirements (for): supporting the health need of the senior citizens; the welfare of the seniors (which) is (also) needing a boost through economic means; the safety requirements because our country is belongs to the “Ring of Fire” and that many disasters befall on our country.

(This includes) not only typhoons, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and all. We really would like to say that there is much to be required in order to have a singular action for the National Commission of the senior citizens to benefit our senior citizens.

We need to provide services to our senior citizens. But more importantly, we feel that the senior citizens are in the stage of our lives we have so much to share as well. The senior citizen is a vast reservoir of skillsets, experiences, and wisdom.

Having said this, we would like our government, our nation, and our people to put our acts together in order that the senior citizens will be able to be a pillar in nation-building.

During the times of disasters, the needs of senior citizens and all the vulnerable sectors are the ones most affected and so we need them to be protected.

We also would like to scan the horizon so that the ramification of human rights for the senior citizens should be recognized.

The goal of the different countries to improve the lives of older persons calls to mind our efforts to put ourselves in the frontlines of serving our senior citizens.

The international community must come together to share best practices. While this is being done, there is a need to have a participatory process in educating the populace and urging the senior citizens to exercise their rights.

We hope that together, we will be able to advocate the whole of nation and whole of government to sustain not only the health of the senior citizens, but also each productivity.

As we put all our efforts together to sustain their health, we want the Philippine government and the international bodies to protect the basic rights of the senior citizens.

Thank you very much for the support you are giving to the National Commission of Senior Citizens. It is our commitment and our responsibility to protect and improve the welfare of our senior citizens.

We can be contacted at the Mabini Hall of the Presidential Palace. We would like to say our unity as international members and as stakeholders will definitely benefit the growing number of senior citizens; not only in this country, but in the whole world.

God bless and more power.