Mr. Chair,

I join others in congratulating you on your election as Chair of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. My delegation is confident that you will guide the Working Group to success, and you can rest assured of our full cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

Since its establishment five years ago, the discussions of the Working Group have drawn greater attention to the need to address challenges faced by older persons, including through strengthening United Nations mechanisms for the promotion and protection of the rights of older person.

To fill the normative and implementation gaps within the existing international framework for the protection of older person, Viet Nam believes that the next step for the Working Group should be considering a possible elaboration of a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons. Such an instrument should take into account relevant existing international documents that address and already cover matters of interest and relevance to older persons, and must be crafted through an inclusive intergovernmental process. Viet Nam will actively participate in the discussions of the Working Group and at the UN on this important issue.

Mr. Chair,

Viet Nam has a young population, with about half of its population under the age of 35. But at the same time, Viet Nam is one of the fastest ageing countries in Asia. It was predicted in 2009 that by 2017 older persons would be expected to
account for 10% of the population and Viet Nam would enter the aging stage. But just two years later, in 2011, Viet Nam officially entered this stage. The current older population in Viet Nam is about 9.4 million, accounting for 10.45% of the population.

With the recognition that “older persons are the nation’s invaluable asset”, Viet Nam cares for and protect its older persons as such. The 2013 Constitution of Viet Nam, in its new separate chapter on human rights, states that “the elderly shall be respected and cared for by the State, family and society and promote their role in the cause for national construction and defense”.

The Law on Older Persons institutionalizes Viet Nam’s policy on serving older persons in a more systematic and comprehensive manner to ensure their socio-economic life and create favorable conditions for them to participate in all aspect of social life. The National Committee on Older Persons is leading the efforts to implement the National Action Program on Older Persons for the period of 2012-2020. Viet Nam is also working with other countries and development partners to achieve targets in the Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action.

Concrete results have been achieved. More is being done to care for the physical and mental health and well-being of older persons, including increasing significantly the number of hospitals with older person services. 2.8 million older persons receive pensions and social insurances; more than 1.5 million receive monthly social allowances. More than 60,000 sport, exercise, art, professional and entertainment clubs for older persons are in operation.

*Mr. Chair,*

Although much progress has been made, Vietnamese older persons still face with many difficulties including poverty, discrimination, abuse and limited healthcare and social protection. Viet Nam is committed to tackle these challenges in order to leave no one behind in our path towards sustainable development. We look forward to continued cooperation with UN agencies and development partners in this endeavor.

I thank you./.