



Re: Recognition of Orione Community Training Centre for its contribution to the community during Covid 19 Pandemic.

Realizing the rights of persons with disabilities is central to the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – to leave no one behind. Achieving transformative and lasting change on disability inclusion through the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy is a priority for the United Nations, including in times of crisis.

The pandemic is intensifying these inequalities, and producing new threats. Persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19, as outlined by the Secretary-General in his policy brief A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19.

Addressing the current challenges and barriers faced by persons with disabilities requires commitment and creativity. It also presents a unique opportunity to design and implement disability-inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery, and build more inclusive and accessible societies, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

From a distance, I have been touched and impressed by the contribution that the Orione Community Training Centre in Kenya has done and is still doing not only to help persons living with disabilities but also the entire community during this pandemic.

The creativity and commitment of the entire Orione Kenya team led by Fr. Alejandro Ruiz together with the Son of Divine Providence Congregation is commendable. They have been in the frontline giving hope and supporting the community in a notable way.

I, Prof. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Special Envoy of the SG-UN on Disability and Accessibility recognize these efforts and invite you all to follow with reference to Orione Community Training Centre.

I wish to extend my gratitude to the Centre's partners, Son of Divine Providence, friends, benefactors and donors whose continued support makes it possible to fuel the passion that the Centre has – promoting the dignity and rights of persons living with disabilities. Let us together continue supporting this mission.

As you celebrate this important day, let us all remember that When we secure the rights of persons with disabilities, we invest in our common future and that of humanity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of vertical and diagonal strokes, ending in a long horizontal flourish.

Prof. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes
Special Envoy of the UNSG on Disability and Accessibility

November 27, 2020