Ref: **0035** /20

09 June 2020

Dear Mr President,

Subject: <u>Response to the letter by Nsindagiza Organization</u>

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 15 May 2020 regarding initiatives of the UN on the impact of COVID-19 on older persons.

We thank you for your engagement with One UN in Rwanda in response to the UN Secretary General's call to ensure that response to Covid-19 respects the rights and dignity of older people.

Indeed, the UN in Rwanda advocates for special measures to protect most vulnerable and marginalized groups in line with our key principle: leaving no one behind.

For a coordinated response and advocacy to COVID-19, the development partner group, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, has set up 4 subgroups: health, social protection and vulnerable groups, socio-economic impact, food security and agriculture production. The four subgroups have provided technical advice to MINECOFIN, MINALOC, MINAGRI *inter alia* throughout the development of the National Economic Recovery Plan.

The recently approved Economic Recovery Plan, discussed with the DP Group, recognizes that there is a high risk of additional households to fall into the vulnerability trap and therefore being more prone to COVID-19 risks. This is especially the case for the households currently categorized as Ubudehe 3 & 2 including the elderly people, women headed households among others. The ERP outlines related strategies and interventions.

The UN is also designing a Joint Programme to support the Government Economic Recovery Plan looking at existing gaps.

Therefore, the UN will continue to advocate for the implementation of the UN Secretary General's recommendations, for an age inclusive Covid-19 response, the UN Socio-Economic Framework for Covid-19 and to provide technical advice and support for effective implementation of the National Economic and Health Preparedness and Response Plans.

Yours Sincerely,

Fodé Ndiaye
Resident Coordinator

Ms. Elie Mugabowishema,
President of Nsindagiza Organization and
Urumuri Rw'izabukuru ageing platform