Dear Madam,

I am writing to reply to the call for contributions for the Secretary General's Report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (the Convention) that you kindly forwarded to TRIAL International on 7 June 2016.

With regard to your request, I am pleased to inform you that in the period between July 2015 and June 2016 TRIAL International carried out several activities to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote the understanding of it, to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this legal instrument, and to encourage other States to become parties to the treaty without further delay and to recognise the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances pursuant to Arts. 31 and 32 of the Convention.

First, it must be recalled that TRIAL International is a member of the International Coalition against Enforced Disappearance.

In November 2015 TRIAL International took part to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review on Nepal, recommending the criminalisation of enforced disappearance as a separate criminal offence in the domestic legislation, the ratification of the Convention and the recognition of the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and examine individual and inter-state communications.
Throughout 2015 and 2016, TRIAL International has been submitting follow-up reports on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Views of the Human Rights Committee on the four cases Tej Raj Bhandari, Gyanendra Tripathi, Katwal and Jit Man Basnet against Nepal. The four communications, concerning cases of enforced disappearance, were lodged by TRIAL International. The Human Rights Committee’s Views represent a landmark in the fight against impunity in cases of enforced disappearance in Nepal. To foster the implementation of the measures recommended by the Human Rights Committee, that include the criminalisation of enforced disappearance under domestic legislation, TRIAL International, together with REDRESS, JURI-Nepal, and Advocacy Forum-Nepal launched the campaign “Real Rights Now!” In the context of the campaign, advocacy activities are conducted to call on Nepal to, among other measures, ratify the Convention and recognise the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

In 2015, the Human Rights Committee issued its views on the communications Ićić, Hamulić, Dovadzija, Kadirić, and Mandić against Bosnia and Herzegovina, all concerning cases of enforced disappearance submitted by TRIAL International.

In all communications lodged before the Human Rights Committee by TRIAL International reference is made to the Convention as the highest standard in international human rights law on the subject of enforced disappearance.

On 30 August 2015 TRIAL International supported the commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared held in Kathmandu by the National Network of Families of Disappeared and Missing Nepal (NEFAD).

In January 2016, TRIAL International, the Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado democrático de derecho and two associations of relatives of disappeared persons from El Salvador and Honduras submitted a report to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) on the obstacles faced by relatives of disappeared migrants in the struggle for justice, truth and reparations. The report aims at illustrating the unique challenges faced by migrants and their relatives, in view of the thematic-study on “disappearances in the context of migrations” that the WGEID is currently drafting.

In February 2016, TRIAL International, the Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado democrático de derecho and a coalition of associations of relatives of disappeared persons from Central America
submitted a follow-up report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on the level of implementation of the concluding observations on Mexico issued by the latter in February 2015.

Between April and June 2016 TRIAL International has been supporting relatives of disappeared persons in Nepal in the submission of their cases to the local Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons. In the complaints lodged before this domestic transitional justice mechanism, reference has been made to the Convention as the legal standard of reference.

Throughout the period under consideration, TRIAL International continued promoting the ratification of the Convention and the recognition of the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances by Burundi. In June 2016, TRIAL International submitted a case referring to an enforced disappearance perpetrated in Burundi to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances pursuant to its urgent procedure. This case must be read in the broader context of the human rights crisis in the country and the increasing reports of abuses, including enforced disappearances.

**Participation to Conferences and Seminars**
Dr. Gabriella Citroni, in her capacity of professor of Human Rights Law at the University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy) and TRIAL International Senior Legal Advisor took part as a speaker to various international conferences on the Convention and on the subject of enforced disappearance in general. Namely:

- “Comentarios al proyecto de ley general sobre desaparición forzada de personas en México”, public speech delivered at Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social, organised by Coordinación de la Campaña Nacional contra la Desaparición Forzada en México, Mexico City (Mexico), 24 August 2015.
- “La disparition forcée: défis contemporains”, intervention at the colloquium “La disparition forcée en droit international”, Université Panthéon-Assas, Paris (France), 9 December 2015.
- “International Legal Standards Applicable in Cases of Enforced Disappearance”, intervention at the congress “Mukhtafun-desaparecidos: An Old Story in a New Scenario?”, organised by the University of Turin, Turin (Italy), 11 May 2016.
- “La desaparición forzada en el marco del conflicto interno peruano”, conference at the Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, Saltillo (Mexico), 27 May 2016.

During the period of reference, Dr. Citroni submitted two expert testimonies to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in cases of enforced disappearance (i.e. Comunidad Campesina de Santa Bárbara v. Peru, on which the Court issued its judgment on 1st September 2015, and Vereda La Esperanza v. Colombia, currently pending before the Court). In both documents, extensive
reference is made to the Convention and the jurisprudence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

Dr. Citroni also published the following articles relevant on the subject of enforced disappearance and where the Convention is extensively quoted and analysed:


Finally, between October and November 2015 Dr. Citroni taught the course “Enforced Disappearance in International Law” at the LL.M. in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. In December 2015, as invited professor at the University Paris II, Panthéon-Assas, she imparted a 25-hour course on “Enforced Disappearance in International Law” to the students of the Master Droits de l'homme et droit humanitaire. In May 2016, she held a 8-hour module on “La desaparición forzada en el derecho internacional de los derechos humanos” in the context of the Especialidad en Desaparición Forzada organised by the Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, Mexico. In the context of the mentioned courses the Convention and the functioning of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances were thoroughly analysed.

I hope that this information can be of use and I remain at disposal may any further clarification be required.

In the meantime, receive my best wishes,

Gabriella Citroni
TRIAL International Senior Legal Advisor