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**National Capacity-Building Workshop on Entrepreneurship Policy for Inclusive and Sustainable Development**

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:00am (CET)

Opening Remarks (7 minutes)

Tatiana Krylova, Head of Enterprise Branch, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD

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Commissioner Mr. Kazungu,  
Colleagues from the UNHCR and IOM,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

On behalf of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), it is my pleasure to welcome you to this national capacity-building workshop entitled “***Entrepreneurship Policy for Inclusive and Sustainable Development***” which is organized by UNCTAD jointly with the Office of the Prime Minister and its Department of Refugees, towards implementation of UNCTAD’s capacity-building project “*Promoting Migrant and Refugee Entrepreneurship in Africa, Andean Region and the Middle East*”. It is the first workshop in a series of 4 thematic workshops we are organizing today and tomorrow, to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders from Uganda’s vibrant entrepreneurship ecosystem to facilitate cooperation and further progress in this area as so important for Uganda as we just heard from the Commissioner.

The aim of this workshop is to review challenges, share good practices and identify opportunities on enhancing the role of entrepreneurship for social and economic integration of migrants and refugees in Uganda. The workshops are expected to create an enabling platform which would facilitate formulating a national action plan that can guide and inspire development of an inclusive ecosystem for entrepreneurship promotion conducive to addressing the issues of migration.

Harnessing entrepreneurship is an important aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and can help governments progress towards many of the Sustainable Development Goals. It has become even more critical in the post COVID-19 resurgence. An inclusive, resilient, and green recovery requires harnessing the entrepreneurial potential of all people including migrants and refugees. Entrepreneurship offers a sustainable path to people in mobility, as it can empower them to bring new ideas, skills, and perspectives to development of their host countries.

As a UN intergovernmental body dealing with trade and development and in line with 5 UN General Assembly Resolutions on Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development since 2012, UNCTAD has been supporting Member States in entrepreneurship promotion focusing on inclusive and sustainable policies through its Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF). During this time, in Africa we have supported Angola, Cameroon Ethiopia, the Gambia, Tanzania, and Seychelles in formulating their national entrepreneurship strategies. We are pleased to add Uganda to this growing list with particular attention to migrant and refugee entrepreneurship.

UNCTAD has been promoting migrant and refugee entrepreneurship in Uganda since late 2018, which provided us with a firsthand experience in understanding and addressing challenges faced by the country in this area. In particular, our recent Needs Assessment Report indicates that while progress has been made, particularly in regulations, further efforts are needed, especially in such areas as access to markets, finance, technology, training, and towards building and strengthening linkages between migrant, refugee and local entrepreneurs.

The *Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees* developed by UNCTAD jointly with IOM and UNHCR is a landmark tool offering a holistic and comprehensive approach to policy formulation and implementation in this area. As a result of interventions of UNCTAD, IOM and UNHCR in promoting the Policy Guide, action plans on facilitation of migrant and refugee entrepreneurship have been drawn in

over 20 countries across developed and developing regions. Joining hands with UNITAR, based on this Policy Guide we have recently developed an e-learning course which I know some of you have already taken. Another effective tool is Empretec training workshop to be delivered for a mixed group of local entrepreneurs and migrants/refugees. Such approach has already proved the efficiency of the Empretec methodology in other countries towards a smooth integration of migrants and refugees into local communities. We are confident that it will also successfully work in Uganda, especially considering that Empretec Uganda is one of most established Empretec centers in UNCTAD's Global Empretec network in more than 40 countries.

We hope that these tools will be useful to policy makers and other stakeholders in Uganda in designing inclusive policy measures with the objective to engage migrants and refugee entrepreneurs in productive activities in the country in a sustainable way, improving quality of their lives and that of local communities.

I would like to thank the Office of the Prime Minister and its Department of Refugees, Commissioner Mr. Kazungu, the government of Uganda and colleagues from the UNHCR and IOM, as well as Empretec Uganda and its director Charles Ocici, for joining efforts and collaboration on implementation of this important project in the country.

We hope that the workshops will add value to ongoing efforts of stakeholders in Uganda towards harnessing the potential of all entrepreneurs – local, migrant and refugee, in building a stronger Ugandan economy while leaving no one behind.

Wish all of us to have productive, interactive and result oriented discussions today and tomorrow!

Also wish you to stay safe,

Thank you for your attention!

