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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**MESSAGE FOR THE E-LEARNING COURSE:
“ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES”
20 January 2020**

Thank you for your interest in this e-learning course on “Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees: Strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus through capacity building”.

The course – prepared by UNITAR in collaboration with UNCTAD, IOM and UNHCR – is based on the joint “Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees”, presented at the Global Compact for Migration in Marrakech in December 2018.

This important learning tool highlights the integral role of migrants and refugees in a globalized world and their contributions to advancing inclusive and sustainable development. At a time when the debate about migration and refugee flows is rife with misconceptions, this collective effort provides an evidence-based approach that showcases the social, cultural and economic contributions of migrants and refugees to their communities and host countries.

Humanitarian support remains critical. In addition, long-term solutions that address the consequences of large movements of displaced people and their livelihood are just as fundamental.

Leaving no one behind and ensuring economic opportunities for all are driving principles of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Entrepreneurship can create win-win solutions, benefitting individuals, communities and society at large. Entrepreneurship is also an important means to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus urged by the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2016.

We can all play a role in supporting entrepreneurial activity by and for refugees and migrants, and addressing barriers to economic activity. Policies that promote inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystems for the most vulnerable and marginalized are essential in order to create a more level playing field and equal opportunities for migrant and refugee entrepreneurs.

Thank you for your commitment to expanding hope and opportunities for the world’s migrants and refugees – and building a better world for all.