UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE PERSONS IN MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS- PROMOTING COOPERATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF GOOD PRACTICES

NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS

22 MAY 2013

WELCOME REMARKS

MR. PHILIP MILLER
ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & IMMIGRATION
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

It is an honour to welcome you all to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Regional Conference on the Protection of Vulnerable Persons in Mixed Migration Flows: Promoting Cooperation, and Identification of Good Practices. This Conference is considered to be the first of its kind in the Caribbean Region. I also welcome you most warmly to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. For some of you, this would be your first visit to The Bahamas, so I do hope you find a little time to enjoy and take in the city of Nassau.

This occasion, which brought us all together, is in part to further contribute to the joint UNHCR and IOM previous regional conferences in the Caribbean organised for both Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations. The Conference seeks to invoke awareness, foster regional cooperation, identify good practices and produce solutions for managing mixed migration flows in the Caribbean Region.

During this two day Conference, representatives will have the opportunity to view presentations by experts, and partake in group discussions, panel discussions

and plenary sessions on an array of mixed migration issues that are of mutual concern.

I wish to thank you all for attending this conference, as you are the individuals with the expertise and experience needed to address this issue of migration from a proactive stance. So let us look forward to a very engaging and productive Conference, one that will capitulate mutually desired outcomes and solutions.

Once again, welcome, and I hope you have a pleasant day.

Thank you.