



**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  
23 MAY 2013**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**MR. WILLIAM PRATT  
DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

Ladies, and Gentlemen, Good Evening,

We have reached the end of a very fruitful and insightful two days of discussions and activities on the protection of vulnerable persons in mixed migration flows, and promoting cooperation and identifying good practices in the Caribbean Region.

It was indeed an honour for The Bahamas to have hosted this Conference deemed very necessary, and today, considered a success. We have accomplished much, the dynamic presentations, panel and small group discussions furnished the environment to achieve some of the proposed objectives of this Conference, namely, identified challenges, exchanged national techniques and good practices, highlighted mechanisms to strengthen regional cooperation, and most of all examined solutions for managing mixed migration flows.

I am pleased that each of you were given the opportunity to depart this Conference with a better understanding of the migration issue in the Caribbean region, and on a more micro level, the circumstances specific to the countries therein.

It is on these occasions that Caribbean countries are reassured of how interdependent and interconnected they are, and that it requires dedicated efforts of every country to not just endeavor to manage or respond to the flow of mixed migration, but to ultimately mitigate the underlying causes for such occurrences. I hope that this conference has inspired you to continue the important work and commitment to realizing the goals regarding mixed migration flows.

In this context, I therefore underscore the invitation made which called for us to use this opportunity to design mechanisms that would stand the test of the rapidly changing circumstances regarding irregular migration in the Region.

In light of the current economic and social challenges our governments face, the role of non-governmental organisations in facilitating such events are vital, and for this, I, on behalf of the Government and the People of The Bahamas wish to extend a especial thanks and gratitude to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organisation for Migration for selecting The Bahamas as the host country for this event.

I also wish to thank the United States Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration –PRM, and the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, the Turks & Caicos Islands and United States of America, for finding it necessary to secure participants for this very important Conference. To the speakers, presenters, international organisation represented, and all participants, I thank you for your invaluable contributions extended to help make this Conference a success.

It is my sincere hope that you all will enjoy the remainder of your stay here in Nassau, and have a safe trip back to your respective countries.

I thank you.