

# Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

## Official Opening of the Exhibit

### *'Women and Slavery: Telling Their Stories'*

12 March 2015, Visitors Lobby, United Nations Secretariat

Remarks by Mrs. Louise Sharene Bailey, Senior Political Officer, Officer-in-Charge of the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations

Your Excellency, Madame Sherman-Peter, Permanent Observer of CARICOM to the United Nations,

Ms Cristina Gallach, Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information

Professor Michelle Mitchell, Associate Professor of history at New York University

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All Protocols observed,

Let me start by thanking the organizers and the Steering Committee for recognizing the importance of having this event on the margins of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women –an exhibition on the theme, “Women and Slavery: telling their stories”. We are truly honoured to take part in this event.

This exhibit serves as a sober and painful reminder of the horrific experiences of women shackled in the bondage of slavery, denied of their basic right to live in freedom and dignity. The transatlantic slave trade has remained as the most inhumane treatment of mankind.

Today as we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action as well as the 15<sup>th</sup> year implementation of resolution 1325 on women, Peace and Security, the danger of racism, and other devastating effects of modern forms of slavery looms large posing serious threats to the advancement of women and the girl child, particularly in Africa

As the stories of women are told through this exhibit, these should serve as inspiration and tribute to the hard won victories of women in slavery on whose shoulders we, as women, stand tall today.

I thank you for your kind attention.