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Ministry of Tourism, Investment, Civil Aviation and Transportation

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**Ministerial Oral Statement of Antigua and Barbuda during High-level Ministerial Segment
- FALC 2025**

Antigua and Barbuda welcomes the opportunity of the 2025 ICAO Facilitation Conference (FALC 2025) to restate its strong commitment to the goals and objectives of Annex 9, “Facilitation”, of the Chicago Convention.

In that regard we express our deep appreciation to the Government of the State of Qatar for hosting this important conference and for the excellent arrangements extended to our delegation.

FALC 2025 comes at a crucial juncture as Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the international community move on from the experiences of the COVID 19 pandemic with a view to learning from that experience and crafting pathways for managing the risks associated with an increasingly interconnected world be it in health, security, or other areas.

Like many small island developing States, Antigua and Barbuda is heavily dependent on air arrivals for its tourism industry, the country's main economic sector. The nature of the industry requires that Antigua and Barbuda enable efficient, customer-friendly entry procedures while at the same time ensuring that requirements for border security are scrupulously maintained as the issues of human trafficking, inadmissible persons, refugees and stateless persons and other border protection concerns come increasingly to the fore.

The role of technology is central to the aviation Facilitation process and Antigua and Barbuda looks forward to the technical exchanges and networking opportunities at FALC 2025 on the innovations taking place in the industry that can contribute to the realization of the goals of Annex 9. At the same time recent events have highlighted the critical nature of inter-agency cooperation and collaboration at all levels if States are to successfully manage the various elements of the border protection and facilitation processes required to achieve satisfactory levels of compliance with ICAO Annexes 9 and 17.

Antigua and Barbuda welcomes the provisions of the draft Doha Declaration on Facilitation of International Air Transport as providing the operational platform for furthering international cooperation in this critical component of the international civil aviation ecosystem and looks forward to its effective implementation.