

## **Speech at the High-level Ministerial Segment of the 2025 ICAO Facilitation Conference**

by Xiong Jie, CAAC Chief Pilot  
(April 2025)

Your Excellency Council President Salvatore Sciacchitano,  
Your Excellency Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to lead the Chinese delegation to participate in the 2025 ICAO Facilitation Conference (FALC 2025). On behalf of the Chinese government, I would like to extend my congratulations on the convening of the Conference and my appreciation to Council President Mr. Sciacchitano, Secretary General Mr. Salazar, and our gracious host— Qatar, for your thoughtfulness and great hospitality. Over the past three days, delegates from around the world have gathered to engage in in-depth discussions on various aspects of Annex 9—*Facilitation* under the theme “Facilitating the future of air transport: collaboration, efficiency, inclusivity”. We have heard valuable experiences and seen many constructive proposals. I have been deeply impressed by the strong commitment of all participating states to facilitation and the shared vision of building a safe, efficient, and seamless global air transport system. This Conference has shown the way forward for future facilitation efforts.

The Doha Declaration on Facilitation of International Air Transport is definitely one of the most significant outcomes of the FALC 2025. It reaffirms and upholds the commitment of all participating states to strengthening facilitation in air transport while outlining the objectives, principles, and roadmap for the next step of the facilitation endeavor. The Declaration reflects our collective aspiration to enhance efficiency, facilitate passenger mobility, and promote the sustainable development of air transport. Key initiatives such as strengthening domestic stakeholder collaboration, enhancing data and information sharing, aligning with the latest facilitation technological standards, and ensuring accessible travel for passengers with disabilities are highly consistent with China’s facilitation priorities. China fully supports the adoption of this Declaration.

For years, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) has leveraged the National Facilitation Committee as a platform to foster close coordination among customs, immigration, health quarantine, and other relevant authorities, establishing a clear and highly efficient coordination mechanism. By participating in international conferences, research activities and collaborative efforts, we have strengthened our international engagement, drawn on global best practices, and advanced the implementation of facilitation measures. As for border clearance and inspection, we have continuously optimized clearance procedures for higher efficiency. The

Committee has also provided solid support for major international events, including the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, the 2022 Winter Olympics, and most recently, the 2025 Asian Winter Games in Harbin. On the international front, China actively takes part in meetings of the Facilitation Panel of ICAO and global forums, contributes feedback on amendments to international standards, and fulfills its obligations regarding difference filings.

Since 2024, we have made further strides in institutional development. In response to ICAO's USAP-CMA recommendations, we have integrated the air transport facilitation mechanism into China's National Transport Facilitation Committee with expanded membership, higher-level participation, and enhanced effectiveness. At the same time, we have revised and implemented our National Air Transport Facilitation Program in alignment with *ICAO's Model National Air Transport Facilitation Programme* (Doc 10042). Just a month ago, we convened the first plenary meeting in 2025 with the participation of nine ministries, including Foreign Affairs, Customs, and Immigration, and issued major tasks for the year.

Looking ahead to 2025, in terms of domestic efforts, we will further promote the establishment of facilitation mechanisms at major international hub airports, organize research and training, and address pressing concerns and bottlenecks faced by airlines, passengers, and cargo stakeholders. Globally, we will continue to deepen exchanges, actively participate in ICAO meetings, and contribute Chinese insights and solutions to tackling challenges in global air transport facilitation.

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Aviation is inherently an international industry. The remarkable progress of global aviation is the result of the collective wisdom and collaboration of all nations. China will continue to support ICAO's leading role in international aviation, firmly uphold multilateralism and globalization, and work hand in hand with all Member States and stakeholders in promoting collaboration, efficiency, and inclusivity of the future global air travel (*note: echoing the theme of FALC 2025*) and build a community with a shared future for global air transport.

Thank you!