

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT FOR
GHANA, HONOURABLE JOSEPH BUKARI NIKPE, AT THE
HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF THE ICAO
FACILITATION CONFERENCE 2025 (FALC2025) IN DOHA,
QATAR, ON 17TH APRIL 2025**

- His Excellency Salvatore Sciacchitano, President of the ICAO Council,
- His Excellency Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Thani, Minister for Transport, Qatar,
- His Excellency Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General of ICAO
- Colleague Ministers of States,
- His Excellency Mohammed bin Faleh Al Hajri, Acting President of Qatar Civil Aviation Authority,
- Directors-General of Civil Aviation Authorities,
- Industry Experts,
- Distinguished Delegates,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend to you warm greetings from His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama, and the people of Ghana. I am honored to be invited to make a statement at this High-Level Ministerial Segment of the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Facilitation Conference here in Doha, Qatar. I would like to express my profound appreciation to the Secretary General of ICAO, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, for this great opportunity.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first and foremost express my profound gratitude to ICAO for its continued leadership in shaping the future of air transport and facilitating the global movement of people and goods. The past few years have presented the aviation industry with unprecedented challenges. Still, they have also highlighted the resilience and critical role that air transport plays in connecting the world, driving economic growth, and fostering global cooperation.

Ghana recognizes that the future of aviation lies in enhancing the efficiency, security, and inclusivity of international air transport. For this reason, we wholeheartedly endorse the Doha Declaration. As a country that benefits immensely from air transport, we are fully committed to the key principles outlined in the declaration.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

We recognize that air transport facilitation is vital to ensuring the safe and seamless movement of passengers, crew, cargo, and aircraft across borders. In line with this, Ghana has made significant strides in aligning with ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices, particularly in the areas of border control, passenger processing, and cargo facilitation.

One of the key areas of focus for Ghana is ensuring accessibility in air transport, especially for persons with disabilities and those with reduced mobility. Ghana is committed to creating an inclusive air transport system that meets the needs of all passengers, regardless of their physical abilities. This commitment is a testament to our belief that every individual is an integral part of the global aviation community. It is reflected in our ongoing efforts to improve accessibility at our airports and to ensure that Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are not left behind.

To this end, I wish to reaffirm Ghana's unwavering commitment to the Doha Declaration on the Facilitation of International Air Transport. Our dedication to advancing the goals of air transport facilitation, sustainable development, and global cooperation in civil aviation is unwavering. This commitment is a reassurance of our dedication to the global aviation community and our confidence in the future of air transport.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ghana also fully supports the Declaration's call for a seamless and secure travel experience for passengers, crew, and cargo. Our country has made tremendous strides in modernizing and expanding our aviation infrastructure to create a cohesive approach to air transport facilitation. We also recognize the significance of air transport in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As I conclude, let me reiterate Ghana's affirmation and commitment to the Doha Declaration and the principles of air transport facilitation. We will continue to support ICAO's efforts to ensure that international civil aviation is safe, secure, inclusive, and sustainable. We are confident that through collective global action, we can strengthen air transport and ensure that it remains a critical enabler of global connectivity and prosperity.

Ghana is ready and eager to collaborate with ICAO, its Member States, and all stakeholders in the aviation industry. We believe that by working together, we can build a more resilient, efficient, and inclusive air transport system that benefits all nations. This readiness is a call to action for all of us to join hands and shape the future of global aviation.

Thank you for your attention!!!