ORAL STATEMENT

of His Excellency Vice-Minister of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Talgat Lastayev at FALC-2025

17 April 2025, Doha

Honourable Minister of Transport of the State of Qatar, President of the ICAO Council, Secretary General of ICAO, President of the Civil Aviation Authority of Qatar, Your Excellencies,

First of all, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and personally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the leadership of ICAO and our Qatari colleagues for the excellent organization of FALC-2025.

Today, we can see that the State of Qatar has undoubtedly achieved outstanding results in terms of global development. The high level of this event, aimed at discussing and identifying practical and mutually acceptable solutions to current issues in civil aviation, is clear confirmation of this.

I would like to especially emphasize the importance and timeliness of the theme of this conference "Facilitating the Future of Air Transport: Collaboration, Efficiency, Inclusivity." This theme fully aligns with ICAO's fundamental principle of "No Country Left Behind" and resonates with ICAO's Global Goal to shape the future of aviation.

Dear colleagues,

Today, Kazakhstan's strategic partnership with ICAO is evolving in the spirit of mutual trust, respect, and constructive dialogue aimed at the steady development of the civil aviation sector.

As an active Member State of ICAO, Kazakhstan consistently contributes to improving flight safety, aviation security, accessibility of air transport, and to enhancing the Organization's authority on the global stage.

Over the past 15 years, through close cooperation with ICAO, Kazakhstan has undertaken a large-scale modernization of the civil aviation sector.

If in 2009 the compliance rate with ICAO Standards stood at only 47%, today, thanks to the comprehensive improvement of national legislation, a well-thought-out

strategy, and effective governmental actions, this figure has reached 82%, which is comparable to the level of several EU countries.

Projects for the construction of new airports and the modernization of existing terminals are being implemented. The ongoing development of aviation infrastructure contributes to economic growth, international trade, tourism, and logistics, as well as to attracting direct foreign investment into the country.

Together with ICAO, Kazakhstan is engaged in several major initiatives. For example, in February this year, during GISS-2025, the Ministry of Transport of Kazakhstan and ICAO signed a Letter of Intent on the implementation of the CAMP programme until 2050, which will serve as a catalyst for broad development in the aviation sector.

Dear Conference Participants,

It is no secret that in our rapidly transforming world, issues related to the facilitation of international air transport are particularly relevant, as they encompass a wide range of critical matters—from simplifying boarding procedures to aviation security and combating international terrorism.

The agenda of this conference reflects the genuine aspiration of the global aviation community and ICAO to create the foundation for a modern, efficient, inclusive, safe, and reliable air transport system of the future. Therefore, I would like to focus on several of its aspects:

<u>First</u>, we recognize the importance of implementing the provisions of Annex 9 to the Chicago Convention, as well as further developing the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy and international standards for electronic travel documents.

Drawing on our accumulated experience, we strive to introduce digital technologies in the aviation sector, including automated border control systems and biometric passenger identification, which contribute to enhanced security and comfort for travellers.

As an active supporter of these innovations, Kazakhstan hosted the regional TRIP Symposium in Almaty in 2023 for the first time. It served as an important platform for discussions on passenger identification and the improvement of border control procedures.

<u>Second</u>, we support ICAO's initiatives to implement modern information systems such as API and PNR, which will allow more efficient management of passenger flows.

In recent years, the work of the Inter-Agency Facilitation Commission in the Republic of Kazakhstan has significantly expanded and reached a qualitatively new level of coordination, enabling the optimization of several bureaucratic procedures at border crossings and improving the efficiency and convenience of cargo processing.

<u>Third</u>, one of the key priorities for our country remains the fight against human trafficking and illegal migration. Kazakhstan is taking proactive steps to enhance mechanisms for data exchange between civil aviation authorities, border control services, and law enforcement agencies.

<u>Fourth</u>, we actively promote initiatives to support the families of victims affected by aviation incidents and accidents.

Unfortunately, we recently faced such a situation in practice, and the Government of Kazakhstan provided all necessary assistance and support to the bereaved families.

In this regard, we fully support all ICAO international initiatives aimed at the practical implementation of the "Zero Fatalities in Aviation" Strategy.

<u>Fifth</u>, Kazakhstan believes that one of the key directions for the global aviation community should be to ensure the accessibility of air transport for all categories of passengers, including persons with disabilities. This, without doubt, will advance our shared objectives for the future of air transport and civil aviation as a whole.

<u>Sixth</u>, it is important to strengthen global coordination in order to minimize emergencies during air transport operations. Given that this issue concerns flight safety, we believe it is essential that *the voice of every ICAO Member State is heard in this area of activity*.

In this regard, the active use of modern innovations and artificial intelligence will enable us to take a significant practical step forward in achieving our global goal — the creation of the aviation of the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kazakhstan supports the Doha Declaration, which outlines all key priorities to ensure the seamless and safe movement of passengers, crews, cargo, and aircraft across borders.

There is no alternative to cooperation. We are firmly convinced that only close and trust-based coordination among States, combined with our collective support for ICAO, will ensure the sustainable development of civil aviation, making air transport even safer, more efficient, and accessible.

In conclusion, I wish all participants of this Conference success, constructive dialogue, and fruitful cooperation for the benefit of the development of international civil aviation.

Thank you for your attention!