

Statement Azucena Zelaya
LACAC's President

Distinguished authorities, all protocol observed.

It is a great honor for me to speak here today in Doha, a city that combines tradition and innovation in a remarkable way. I speak on behalf of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission, LACAC and the 22 Member States we represent. Together, we account for approximately 6% to 8% of the global air transport market. And we have a clear goal: to grow.

To achieve this growth, it is essential to adopt a strong and modern approach to facilitation, in line with ICAO's standards and recommended practices.

Facilitation is not a new concept. Since the adoption of Annex 9 in 1949, our common objective has been to ensure that international air travel is secure, efficient, and respectful of passengers' rights and dignity.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, this objective is especially relevant. Our region is marked by a rich diversity of cultures, languages, and institutional frameworks. In this context, cooperation and coordination are not only important: they are indispensable.

Passengers and cargo operators consistently highlight time as a key factor. Therefore, improving efficiency without compromising safety must remain one of our main priorities.

Facilitation goes beyond procedures and documentation. It is fundamentally about building trust among institutions, ensuring clear communication, and promoting a shared sense of responsibility across different agencies and sectors. Looking ahead, the future of facilitation must also be built around the use of robust technology, technology that helps streamline processes, strengthen coordination, and enhance overall efficiency. This includes ensuring system interoperability and promoting the ethical use of artificial intelligence, especially in areas such as passenger data management, risk assessment, and communication between border agencies.

Allow me to conclude by emphasizing that facilitation is, above all, about people. It is about how we receive travelers, how we manage cargo, and how we act, not only with control, but with cooperation, coordination, and efficiency. This is how we can make air transport faster, safer, and more responsive to the needs of all users.

The declaration being adopted here in Doha stands as a clear symbol of our shared commitment and alignment. LACAC and its Member States proudly support this global effort to strengthen facilitation as a pillar of sustainable aviation.

Thank you very much.