

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DATUK HAJI HASBI HABIBOLLAH
DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT MALAYSIA
ICAO FACILITATION CONFERENCE
17 APRIL 2025**

His Excellency Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Thani,
Minister of Transport of the State of Qatar,

His Excellency Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
President of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO),

Honorable Ministers, Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

INTRODUCTION & APPRECIATION

1. Let me first begin by expressing the Government of Malaysia's gratitude to the Government of the State of Qatar and the Civil Aviation Authority of Qatar, for hosting this remarkable ICAO Facilitation Conference 2025.

2. Complementing the future of facilitation, the conference had shown active participations by the delegates in vibrant discussions among panels, presentations by esteemed experts and engagement in a range of technical demonstrations organized by the Technical Advisory Group on the Traveler Identification Program (TAG/TRIP) and the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) Board. I firmly believe that the valuable insights from these sessions will assist Member States in defining the future of air transport facilitation

and in promoting ongoing enhancements in efficiency and cross-border connectivity. Hence, we are moving closer to our goal of truly seamless skies, where both people and goods move swiftly and securely across borders.

GLOBAL AVIATION RECOVERY & THE ROLE OF FACILITATION

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

4. The year 2024 proved to be exceptional for the worldwide aviation industry. Many regions have exceeded the traffic levels recorded in 2019, and connectivity to the Asia-Pacific region has been completely reinstated. Moreover, there was a 10.4% year-on-year increase in total global passenger numbers, and total international Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPK) exceeded 2019 levels by 0.5%. Notably, Asia-Pacific airlines led the world with a 16.9% year-on-year growth in RPK.

5. This signifies more than recovery as it marks a new phase of transformation in global air transport. For Malaysia, this resurgence showcases not only our resilience, but our readiness to grow stronger. We are committed to enhancing the operational efficiency and travel experience for every passenger.

6. Additionally, continuous partnerships and collaborations among the Member States ensure cohesive global facilitation strategies that enables adaptation and responsiveness to the rapid developments in civil aviation.

ANNEX 9 – A CORNERSTONE OF CONNECTIVITY

7. The 75th Anniversary of Annex 9 – Facilitation last year reminded us of the enduring relevance of this document. Facilitation plays a crucial role in enabling the aviation sector to serve as an engine for economic and social development. As air traffic increases, the development and implementation of Annex 9 - Facilitation to the Convention on International Civil Aviation provisions is increasingly vital in ensuring the safe and seamless movement of passengers, cargo, and aircraft across international borders globally.

PANDEMIC LESSONS AND A FUTURE-READY APPROACH

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

8. The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the fragility of global travel systems. Border closures, inconsistent health measures, and delayed information-sharing caused immense disruption. Within this context, Malaysia supports ICAO's initiatives, including the strengthening of Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) and greater coordination with World Health Organization (WHO), to ensure that aviation is better prepared to respond to future health emergencies.

9. We also commend ICAO's leadership in promoting Digital Travel Credentials, the expansion of the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD), and

contactless identity verification, all of which are transforming the traveller experience while enhancing security and trust between states.

10. Malaysia is also working closely with ICAO to introduce Digital Travel Credentials (DTC), aimed at replacing physical passports and boarding passes with secure digital identities. This initiative is being piloted at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and supports the Traveler Identification Program (TRIP) Strategy's goal of seamless and contactless travel, enhancing passenger convenience while strengthening border security.

MALAYSIA'S COMMITMENT TO ICAO'S VISION

11. Malaysia has been a member of ICAO since 1958 and continues to serve actively in the ICAO Council. We reaffirm our full support for ICAO's vision of a safe, secure, economically viable and sustainable air transport system. We remain fully committed to the implementation of facilitation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) to harmonize border processes globally.

12. We also stand in support of ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative and are prepared to collaborate in strengthening capacity-building and provide assistance for States in need of help with the implementation of facilitation programs.

13. Malaysia recognizes that air transport facilitation is deeply interconnected with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in promoting inclusive growth, reducing inequalities, and fostering innovation and partnerships. An efficient and resilient facilitation systems contribute directly to SDG targets particularly in relation to infrastructure, sustainable economic growth, and reduced inequalities. On that score, Malaysia is committed to collaborating with ICAO and global partners to ensure that advancements in facilitation not only drive aviation growth, but also contribute meaningfully to sustainable development globally.

INCLUSIVITY

14. Malaysia firmly advocates for the inclusion and accessibility of air transport services for individuals with both visible and non-visible disabilities, as well as those with limited mobility. Air travel should be a fundamental right available to everyone, and we commend the efforts of ICAO in this regard.

15. Malaysia also reaffirms its commitment to Resolution A41-14 on assistance to victims of aviation accidents and their families. We welcome the elevation of Recommended Practice 8.46 to Standard 8.47 and continue to advocate for compassionate and comprehensive support systems for victims and families.

SUPPORT FOR THE DOHA DECLARATION & CONCLUSION

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

16. This Conference represents a critical milestone in preparing for the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly. Malaysia acknowledges the diligent work of the ICAO Facilitation Panel and Secretariat in developing the **Doha Declaration on the Facilitation of International Air Transport**. Last but not least, Malaysia reiterates its commitment to further strengthening air transport facilitation grounded in global cooperation, inclusivity, and the principles of safety and economic sustainability.

Thank you for your attention.