

**STATEMENT BY BARR. FESTUS KEYAMO, THE HONOURABLE  
MINISTER OF AVIATION AND AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT,  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AT 2025 ICAO Facilitation  
CONFERENCE (FALC 2025) IN DOHA, QATAR**

**The Honourable Ministers here present**

**The President of the ICAO Council, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,**

**Secretary General of ICAO, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar**

**Minister of Transport, Qatar, H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin**

**Abdulla bin Mohammed Al Thani**

**Acting President, Civil Aviation Authority, Qatar**

**Director General of Civil Aviation Authorities here present**

**Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and**

**Gentlemen,**

**It is with great honour and privilege as the Honourable Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, that I address this esteemed assembly at the ICAO Facilitation Conference 2025.**

**2. First, let me extend to you all, very warm greetings and felicitations from our President, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, and the good people, of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I also would like to join other delegations and extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Qatar and the International Civil Aviation Organization for orchestrating this pivotal gathering in the beautiful city of Doha, Qatar, which**

**underscores our collective commitment to advancing global air transport facilitation.**

**3. Nigeria remains steadfast in its dedication to the principles and objectives of ICAO. Since our accession to the ICAO Council in 1962, we have actively contributed to the organization's endeavors, particularly within the African region. Our nation has ratified all pertinent international air law instruments, including the Montreal Protocol and amendments to the Chicago Convention, reflecting our unwavering commitment to global aviation standards.**

**4. In our pursuit of excellence, Nigeria has achieved significant milestones in the aviation sector. Notably, we have been recognized as the leading African nation in compliance with global aviation standards. This achievement is a testament to our rigorous regulatory framework and the dedication of our aviation professionals.**

**5. In line with the Federal Government of Nigeria's Renewed Hope Agenda and, in a bid, to boost aviation sector growth, the government in September 2024 officially endorsed the Cape Town Convention (CTC) practice direction on de-registration and export requests of leased aircraft. The move immediately increased the Nigeria CTC Compliance Index score from 49% to 70.5% by the Aviation Working Group (AWG).**

**6. Following the signing of the administrative rules governing aircraft repossession by creditors and lessors, known as the Irrevocable De-registration and Export Request Authorization (IDERA) in October 2024, however, the Nigeria's score on the CTC Compliance Index increased further from 70.5% to 75.5%, placing the country in the 'high category' with the subsequent removal of Nigeria from the AWG's watchlist of non-compliant countries. The signing of IDERA has allowed Nigerian airlines to access leased aircraft more easily, while boosting operational capacity and international confidence that would support Nigeria airline expansion.**

**7. The Federal Government of Nigeria has adopted the Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (API PNR) Technology using a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) Initiative. The technology would enhance the National Security by improving passenger entry processes as well as enable the Border Security Agencies to effectively and comprehensively screen individuals before they gain access to Nigeria.**

**8. Also, the Federal Government has installed E-gates that would accurately collect data while improving passenger convenience by allowing eligible biometric passport holders to clear border controls quickly and efficiently at Nigeria international airports. The Federal Government**

**commitment in adopting these cutting-edge technologies in enhancing National Security, improving facilitation of passengers, cargo and mail as well as promoting global best practices in Migration Management is underscored by the continuous capacity-building program in collaboration with the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) focused on the application of the API/PNR data in National Security and Law Enforcement.**

**9. As we convene to deliberate on facilitating the future of air transport, Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to collaborative efforts that promote seamless, secure, and efficient air travel. We advocate for the adoption of innovative technologies and policies that enhance passenger experience while ensuring safety and compliance.**

**10. In conclusion, Nigeria stands ready to collaborate with all stakeholders to realize the objectives of this conference. Together, we can forge a path toward a more connected and resilient global aviation industry.**

**Thank you.**

**17<sup>th</sup> April 2025**