

Your Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Presidents of Civil Aviation Authorities, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the State of Qatar for hosting this important Facilitation Summit and for their warm hospitality.

It is an honor to address you today on the crucial topic. Air transport facilitation is a key driver of **sustainable economic growth** and plays an essential role in supporting the civil aviation sector. **Annex 9** of the **Convention on International Civil Aviation** establishes standards and recommended practices in border facilitation, security, and streamlined procedures—minimizing delays while maintaining safety, security, and efficiency.

We commend **ICAO** for its unwavering commitment to this cause, particularly in **2024—the Year of Facilitation**. This designation highlights aviation’s pivotal role in enabling efficient, secure, and seamless cross-border operations while underscoring its profound impact on human well-being.

As part of our commitment, **Saudi Arabia** was honored to host the **First ICAO Global Facilitation Summit in May 2024**, where key topics were addressed, including:

- **Implementation of Annex 9 standards,**
- **Best practices in facilitation,**
- **Digital transformation,**
- **Public health crisis management, and**
- **Support for victims and families.**

Aligned with ICAO’s standards, Saudi Arabia has **implemented key air transport facilitation measures**, particularly in the **ICAO Traveler Identification Programme (TRIP)**. This includes the issuance of the **Saudi ePassport**, which meets the highest security standards. Additionally, the Kingdom has joined the **ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD)**, strengthening collaboration with international aviation authorities and investing in advanced

security technologies. These initiatives ensure a **safe and seamless** travel experience for passengers transiting through Saudi airports.

Moreover, Civil Aviation plays a crucial Role in Humanitarian Response

At the **Riyadh Future Aviation Forum 2024**, it was emphasized a critical concern: **The frequency and impact of crises—both natural and human-induced—are rising.** Earthquakes, pandemics, and geopolitical tensions demand our **continuous attention and preparedness.** **Humanitarian response in such crises relies on rapid and efficient air transport.**

Moving Forward

We extend our gratitude to **ICAO and all stakeholders** for their dedication to this vital cause. Let us work together to **advance these initiatives**, ensuring that aviation remains a **pillar of sustainable economic growth contributing to human well-being.**

In conclusion, Saudi Arabia reaffirms its commitment to supporting ICAO's vision, advancing facilitation initiatives, promoting humanitarian efforts, and investing in technological innovation to create a more integrated and sustainable aviation sector.

Thank you.