

**ORAL STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION AT
THE ICAO FACILITATION CONFERENCE 2025 (FALC 2025) FEATURING A
HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL SEGMENT IN DOHA, QATAR- 14TH TO 17TH
APRIL, 2025**

ALL Protocol observed:

I bring you greetings from the Government and people of the Republic Sierra Leone and warm felicitation from His Excellency, Dr. Rtd. Brigadier General, Julius Maada Bio, the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone in this August conference. This is Sierra Leone perspective:

AGENDA ITEM

1.1 The Establishment and Implementation of the National Air Transport Facilitation Programme (NATFP) and a National Air Transport Facilitation Committee:

The establishment of this programme is contingent on Sierra Leone being a Contracting State to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Chicago Convention of 1944. The Civil Aviation Act of 2023 and Part 9 of the Civil aviation Regulations mandates the DG to develop policies for the establishment and implementation of a NATFP in line with Annex SARPs.

The coordination, organization, Management, term of reference of the committees and implementation of this programme is clearly defined in Chapter 5 of this programme.

Moreover, through the national coordination between Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, Sierra Leone Immigration Department, Interpol and the Criminal Investigation Department of the Sierra Leone Police, the State has developed a procedural manual for the Management of Stolen Lost Travel Document (SLTD) in accordance with the ICAO document 9303 requirements.

1.2 National Coordination and International Cooperation:

The state of Sierra Leone through the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority has been able to coordinate and collaborate with other national and international Agencies such as ICAO-IPACK training programmes, Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention of Public Health (CAPSCA), United Nations Organization for Counter Terrorism (UNOCT). These collaborations have yielded in the development of the following National Programmes:

- The Airport Health Emergency Preparedness Plan (CAPSCA). Through the collaboration with CAPSCA the state of Sierra Leone has developed an Airport Health Emergency Preparedness Plan for use during pandemics as was evident during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- With the support of ICAO through the IPACK training programmes- the state of Sierra Leone has developed a National Air Transport Facilitation Programme and an Airport Facilitation Programme.

- With the support of ICAO through the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT)- Sierra Leone has developed a draft API Regulation as required by Annex 9 chap 9.7 and 9.8.
- The National Civil Aviation Security Committee collaborates with the National Air Transport Facilitation Committee in resolving facilitation issues leading to security concerns.

1.3 PASSENGER EXPERIENCE:

For the state of Sierra Leone to meet its traffic growth and capacities at airport, the state has built a new airport to ensure comfortable and expeditious movement of passenger experience. The newly built Freetown International Airport provides for seamless movement of passengers with disability/reduced mobility using an elevator.

For aircraft operators, it facilitates passenger's check-in with the required documentation for air travellers within the turnaround time. This also ensures transit passengers do not miss their connecting flights.

At airport level, there is a suggestion box wherein passengers can fill an embarkation and disembarkation form. This form gives the travelling public the opportunity to independently assess and give feedback of their experience using the facilities of the airport. This help in shaping our beautiful Aviation Industry in Sierra Leone.

The new Free Town International Airport has three state-of-the art boarding gates. Compared to the old terminal, the passenger experience using the new airport terminal is exciting. This infrastructural development has enhanced the smooth boarding process for passengers even during peak hours at airport.

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