

## High-Level Ministerial Segment (FALC 2025)

**Theme:** *Aviation Advancements, Partnerships, and Future Vision for Somalia*

**Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Esteemed Colleagues,**

It is both an honour and a privilege to address this esteemed gathering at the High-Level Ministerial Segment of FALC 2025. On behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia and the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for convening this pivotal forum aimed at shaping the future of air transport facilitation.

At the outset, I would like to extend **our deepest gratitude to the State of Qatar**, the gracious host of this year's facilitation conference. In particular, allow me to recognize and commend **His Excellency Mohamed Bin Abdullahi Al Thani**, Minister of Transport of the State of Qatar, for his outstanding leadership, generous hospitality, and unwavering dedication to fostering international cooperation in the aviation sector. His commitment to advancing global air transport is both visionary and inspiring, and we are honoured to participate under his auspices.

**Excellencies,**

Somalia stands at a pivotal moment of transformation in its aviation sector. Despite decades of adversity, the Federal Government has made commendable strides in rebuilding and modernizing the civil aviation system.

Among our most notable achievements is the **full reclamation and management of Somalia's sovereign airspace**, which is now operated entirely from our Mogadishu-based Air Navigation Services Centre. This milestone, made possible through close collaboration with ICAO and our development partners, represents a powerful symbol of our national sovereignty, institutional progress, and technical advancement.

Additionally, the **modernization of our bilateral Air Services Agreements (ASAs)** has significantly enhanced regional and international connectivity. Notably, the successful initialling of a revised ASA with the Sultanate of Oman, signed in Muscat, has facilitated the operation of direct flights by Oman Air and Salam Air—fostering stronger ties and connecting communities across borders.

The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation remains firmly committed to enhancing air transport facilitation, in line with the standards and recommended practices outlined in **Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention**. This commitment includes active implementation of the **ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy** and participation in the **ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD)**.

To this end, we are investing in **institutional reform and capacity building**, with particular emphasis on human capital development within the **Somali Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA)**.

Our priorities include strengthening aviation safety, security, air navigation, and facilitation functions. Through targeted training and collaboration with ICAO and other key stakeholders, we are laying a firm foundation for **long-term sustainability and national self-reliance**.

In line with Somalia's national development agenda, we are currently implementing the **Safe Transport and Resilient Systems (STARS) Project**, in partnership with the **World Bank**. This comprehensive initiative seeks to improve infrastructure, operational performance, and institutional governance across the transport sector, with civil aviation as a central focus. Notably, it supports Somalia's transition from international oversight to full national ownership of critical aviation functions.

### **Excellencies,**

A cornerstone of our future vision is the **planned development of a new Mogadishu International Airport**, to be executed under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** model. The current facility has exceeded its design capacity, and projected growth necessitates the establishment of a modern, sustainable, and high-capacity airport.

This future airport will be built to meet international standards for **safety, environmental performance, and operational excellence**, positioning Somalia as a strategic **aviation hub for East Africa and beyond**. We therefore **invite governments, international financial institutions, and private sector investors** to partner with us in realizing this transformative project, which promises to catalyze economic growth, enhance trade, boost tourism, and create meaningful employment opportunities.

In conclusion, Somalia reaffirms its **unwavering commitment to ICAO's principles** and the **No Country Left Behind (NCLB)** initiative. We firmly believe that enhanced regional collaboration, continued capacity development, and inclusive partnerships are essential to building a safer, more connected, and more resilient global aviation system.

Once again, I extend our sincere thanks to **His Excellency Mohamed Bin Abdullahi Al Thani**, the State of Qatar, and ICAO for their generous hospitality and commitment to the global aviation community.

**Thank you.**