

## Ministerial Statement

By H.E. Miguel Marques Gonçalves Manetelu

Minister of Transport and Communications

Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

ICAO Facilitation Conference 2025 (FALC 2025)

Doha, Qatar – 14–17 April 2025

1. Your Excellency Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Thani, Honorable Minister of Transport of the State of Qatar;
2. Your Excellency Mohamed Faleh Al-Hajri, Acting President of the Civil Aviation Authority of Qatar;
3. Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano, President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization;
4. Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General of ICAO;
5. Honorable Ministers;
6. Distinguished Delegates;
7. Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is both an honour and a privilege to address this distinguished assembly at the ICAO Facilitation Conference 2025. On behalf of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the State of Qatar for its kind invitation, and for the generous hospitality extended to me and my delegation throughout our stay in Doha.

Allow me to commend the State of Qatar and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the outstanding organization of this important forum. The theme, *“Facilitating the Future of Air Transport: Collaboration, Efficiency, Inclusivity,”* resonates profoundly with Timor-Leste’s vision as a young nation striving to more fully integrate into the global aviation ecosystem.

This occasion provides a timely platform to reiterate our gratitude to ICAO for its steadfast support and technical cooperation since Timor-Leste’s accession to the Organization in 2005. The capacity-building initiatives and technical assistance we have received have been pivotal in advancing the development of our civil aviation sector. In this regard, we look forward to the upcoming Universal Security Audit Program – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA), scheduled to take place

in Dili from 26 May to 4 June 2025 – an important milestone in strengthening aviation security and compliance in our country.

We also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to our partners, including the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and other international stakeholders, for their ongoing commitment and collaboration. Your support has played a significant role in reinforcing our regulatory framework and we look forward to continue deepening these partnerships in a spirit of mutual benefit and sustainability.

Our presence at FALC 2025 reaffirms Timor-Leste's dedication to fulfilling its obligations under the ICAO frameworks, especially in the area of facilitation under Annex 9. We are working diligently to align our national systems and processes with international norms to ensure the delivery of safe, efficient, and seamless air travel for all passengers.

As a country with a small economy and a young civil aviation system, we firmly believe in the value of international cooperation and shared responsibility. We call upon the international aviation community to uphold the principle of inclusivity, ensuring that no nation – regardless of its size or economic standing – is left behind. Equal access to air transport facilitation and capacity-building is vital to fostering global connectivity and achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Let us continue working together to create an inclusive, efficient, and resilient air transport system, one that serves the needs of all people, everywhere.

Thank you very much.