



ZIMBABWE STATEMENT

By

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Zimbabwe Head of Delegation

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

On the Occasion of the

2025 ICAO FACILITATION CONFERENCE

DOHA, STATE OF QATAR

17 APRIL 2025

Between 0930 and 1515 hours (Main Auditorium)

**President of ICAO, Mr Salvatore Sciacchitano;
ICAO Secretary General;
Your Excellencies;
Distinguished Guests;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

Mr. President; Heads of Delegations; Distinguished Delegates;

- It is my great honour and privilege, to address this ***High-Level Ministerial Segment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Facilitation Conference;***
- I wish to acknowledge our host, the State of Qatar, for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation since our arrival in Doha.

Mr. President;

- Allow me from the outset, to affirm Zimbabwe's commitment towards the ICAO's initiatives and policies, designed to establish and uphold a safe, secure, efficient, economically sustainable, and environmentally responsible international air transportation system.
- Indeed, Zimbabwe remains committed to the effective implementation of ***ICAO Annex 9- Facilitation to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.***

Mr. President;

- To make good the provisions of Annex 9- we have, by way of primary legislation, provided for the establishment and appointment of the National Air Transport Facilitation Committee.
- The Committee has a clear mandate to develop and implement a National Air Transport Facilitation Programme, to ensure coordination between relevant ministries, agencies and the civil aviation industry, to remove unnecessary obstacles and delays to the provision of civil air transport services and improve their level of efficiency.
- All aviation stakeholders, through implementation of the Facilitation Programme, work closely to ensure the efficient and seamless movement of passengers, crew, cargo, and aircraft across borders.

Mr. President;

- To address the scope of Annex 9 in its entirety, the Committee has incorporated all facilitation aspects in their programming, ranging from modalities to combat human trafficking and challenges faced by unaccompanied children; accessibility of persons with disability and other vulnerable groups and key populations in International Civil Aviation.
- The Committee also deals with matters of maintaining health and sustaining safe international air transport during public health emergencies affecting air travel, within the framework of affirming global commitment to enable the safe and efficient recovery of aviation from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to make aviation more resilient in the future.
- Zimbabwe has established a stand-alone Directorate, removed from the Civil Aviation Authority, with a clear mandate to ensure proper coordination of actors in the provision of assistance to victims of aviation accidents and their families.

Mr. President;

- Further, Zimbabwe successfully joined the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) in September 2022, becoming the 84th State to join the platform, aimed at facilitating secure verification and authentication of electronic travel documents.
- Participation in the PKD is a testimony to our commitment towards strengthening aviation security and aligning with international standards for electronic travel document verification.
- Zimbabwe has approved, and has set in motion comprehensive implementation of passenger data systems, aimed at strengthening border and national security.

Mr. President; Distinguished Delegates;

- As I conclude, allow me to reaffirm our commitment to the ***Doha Declaration on Facilitation of International Air Transport*** as shall be presented to Member States today.

- Indeed, we join forces in ensuring that all States, regardless of their capabilities and resources, are supported to meet the aviation security and facilitation challenges in the spirit of the ICAO *No Country Left Behind* initiative.
- I also want to take this opportunity to invite aviation stakeholders to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, for the **10th ICAO African Indian Ocean (AFI) Aviation Week** to be held from 26 to 30 May 2025.
- The Victoria Falls, popularly known as ‘*The Smoke that Thunders*’ is one of the world's largest waterfalls, recognised as one of the 7 Natural Wonders of the World for its natural beauty, geological and cultural significance.

I THANK YOU