



**Keynote Address by  
the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,  
to the Ministerial Segment  
ICAO Facilitation Conference 2025 (FALC 2025)**

*(Doha, Qatar, 17 April 2025)*

*H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Thani, Minister of Transport of Qatar,  
Excellencies, honorable ministers,  
Distinguished representatives to the ICAO Council,  
Secretary General,  
Distinguished guests,  
Colleagues,*

Good morning, and welcome to the Ministerial Segment of the ICAO Facilitation Conference 2025. Let me begin by expressing ICAO's deepest gratitude to the Government of Qatar for hosting this event. This confirms their unwavering commitment to global aviation.

Enhancing air transport facilitation means ensuring the smooth movement of passengers, crew, cargo, and aircraft while maintaining the highest standards of safety, security and efficiency. The objective of this Conference, and ultimately of the Declaration that we will adopt, is to help deliver a more accessible and efficient international air transport system.

We gather as aviation continues to adapt to profound changes and respond to significant opportunities. The emergence of evermore transformative technologies, rapidly evolving security issues, and the echoes of COVID-19, are among the factors brining us closer together.

Through our strengthened collaboration, the international community has developed and agreed on comprehensive responses.

These are reflected in our key ICAO Assembly Resolutions which represent the commitment of States to expanding aviation's crucial role in sustainable development worldwide.

Translating these commitments into action will require action on the key priorities: strengthening global governance, deepening cooperation between stakeholders, and embracing the transformative potential of digital identity, biometric recognition, and passenger data exchange. The seamless, paperless journey is no longer a vision—it is an expectation.

To support progress on these priorities, ICAO offers practical tools and frameworks that meet States' needs.

Building on consistently updated standards and recommended practices in Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention, the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme Strategy and Public Key Directory provide the technical foundations for modernizing and enhancing border management while maintaining security.

We are also committed to sustainable funding mechanisms that ensure the longevity and effectiveness of facilitation programmes.

These tools also give us the means to delivering an international air transport network that is accessible to all travellers, including persons with disabilities, refugees, and stateless persons.

I would like to highlight that the same commitment to human dignity guides our policies and training to protect accident victims and their families, and to prevent human trafficking.

Moreover, recent global events have highlighted aviation's crucial humanitarian role.

Those events have demonstrated how our technical capabilities and human values must work in concert, reminding us that the efficiency of our facilitation frameworks directly impacts our ability to respond swiftly during disasters, health emergencies, and crisis situations.

Technology alone is not enough – we must build the skilled workforce needed to manage and promote innovation effectively, ensuring technology serves our human-centered goals. That means we must prioritize capacity building, attracting the next generation of aviation professionals while fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within our industry.

I urge you to embrace a forward-looking, action-oriented mindset. Let us strengthen our commitments and drive implementation, through the adoption of the Doha Declaration on Facilitation of International Air Transport. The Declaration provides a practical framework for these improvements, bridging our technical capabilities with our humanitarian responsibilities. Your perspectives will be essential in shaping how we move forward.

Excellencies, ICAO remains dedicated to supporting Member States and stakeholders in delivering on your declaration and affirmations at this meeting.

Thank you.