2 - 4 November 2026

aac

الإتحاد العربي للنقل الجوي

arab air carriers' organization

الجمعية العامة التاسعة والخمسين

59TH AGM

Doha

Distinguished Chairpersons and Chief Executive Officers of the airlines that are members of the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO),

Mr. Abdul Wahab Teffaha, Secretary General of AACO,

Honorable guests,

Greetings,

Welcome to Doha! It is our pleasure to welcome you today to the 59th Annual General Meeting of the Arab Air Carriers Organization, held under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

We are meeting this year under exceptional circumstances, following a year marked by challenges that affected various parts of the Arab world, impacted the aviation sector, and placed before us difficult decisions that we never hoped to face.

At the outset of my remarks, allow me to express our solidarity with our brothers and sisters who, over the past months, have faced these extraordinary circumstances that affected air traffic and imposed major challenges on us, on airports, and on other relevant entities. In confronting these challenges, the Arab aviation sector has demonstrated its ability to cooperate and coordinate effectively, placing the safety of our passengers and civil aviation personnel at the forefront of our priorities.

The close cooperation among the relevant authorities, civil aviation entities, air navigation service providers, and airlines has helped ensure safe air routes, manage operational changes, and maintain the continuity of air traffic to the greatest extent possible.

On behalf of Qatar Airways, I would like to extend our gratitude to all our partners across the Arab world for their efforts and cooperation during this period, emphasizing the

importance of building on and strengthening this cooperation to address future challenges.

This cooperation is an extension of a long tradition of joint work that has contributed over decades to the development of the aviation sector in our region.

Reflecting on this journey of development, we recall that Doha first hosted the General Assembly in 2001, when Qatar Airways was beginning its journey under the vision of His Highness the Father Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, may his soul rest in eternal peace, who believed in the importance of connecting the State of Qatar with the world and in the pivotal role aviation could play in advancing the nation's progress.

Today, under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, that vision has become one of the pillars of Qatar's national development. It has also seen Qatar Airways grow alongside its sister airlines across the region.

At present, the aviation sector in the Middle East supports four million jobs and contributes approximately USD 290 billion to the regional economy, while providing one out of every twenty jobs.

The sector's economic contribution is expected to rise to USD 730 billion by 2043, with aviation employment in our region projected to grow at a faster pace than in any other region of the world.

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf, we share a common ambition: to build a sustainable aviation sector that creates prosperity and employment opportunities, and to transform our geographical location into a lasting advantage that benefits our economies and societies.

To achieve this, we need to strengthen air connectivity between our capitals and cities and adopt policies that enable airlines in the region to continue growing.

One of the most promising signs of growth today can be seen in our emerging markets, where new air routes, multiple airlines, and modern airports are helping attract more visitors and stimulate business activity.

And when these markets grow, our entire Arab region grows with them.

Based on what we have witnessed during this year, our priorities for the year ahead are clear. Foremost among them is the development of mechanisms for joint action that meet future requirements through:

- Updating coordination mechanisms across our airspace;
- Adopting common standards to ensure operational reliability;
- Strengthening cooperation between airlines and regulatory authorities.

…….

We hope that this Annual General Meeting will witness fruitful discussions and reach out to practical positive outcomes, and that all delegations will leave Doha having gained real value from their active participation.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, for his generous patronage.

I also thank Mr. Abdul Wahab Teffaha, Secretary General of the Arab Air Carriers Organization, and his team for all their dedicated efforts in preparing this gathering.

And now, it is my honor to declare the AACO 59th Annual General Meeting officially open.

Thank you very much for your kind attendance.