

**Press Release  
For immediate release**

**Aviation industry charts new path forward at Future Aviation Forum**

- **Aviation leaders sign agreements worth \$2.7bn anticipating a strong recovery for the sector**
- **Riyadh Aviation Declaration establishes the six guiding principles for the future of aviation to advance innovation, growth and sustainability**
- **Second Future Aviation Forum announced for 2024**
- **Saudi Arabia recognized by fellow Arab states for its ‘significant contribution’ to civil aviation**

**Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: 10 May 2022** – The inaugural Future Aviation Forum concludes as the two day event sees global aviation leaders set the course for a resilient and sustainable recovery of the global aviation sector.

In a sign of confidence for the months and years ahead, transport ministers, heads of civil aviation authorities, and top executives at global aviation companies used the occasion to sign more than 50 deals amounting to \$2.7bn (10bn SAR) in value.

The deals signed include bilateral air services agreements that will increase connectivity between the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa, as well as collaborations on sustainability, human capital development, airport operation deals and technology partnerships.

The conclusion of the Forum also saw the presentation and adoption of the Riyadh Aviation Declaration that establishes six guiding principles for the future of aviation. This will be definitive in orientating the global aviation sector to enhance innovation, sustainability and growth by encouraging cooperation at multilateral, regional and national levels, as well as fostering a customer and passenger centric direction for the industry.

Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Transport and Logistical Services Saleh Al-Jasser presented the Riyadh Aviation Declaration and described its adoption as a critical moment for global aviation.

“The Riyadh Aviation Declaration outlines a vision for the future of global aviation, and the concrete steps we have taken during these two days to make this vision a reality. Our declaration is a key moment for global aviation,” said Al-Jasser.

Signatories to the Riyadh Aviation Declaration commit to:

1. **Enhance the alignment of the global aviation regulatory architecture** for preparedness and responsiveness to health or other disruptions, to deliver more consistent, safe and seamless travel experiences for customers;
2. Support **the goal of a sustainable and inclusive recovery** of the aviation sector, through long-term policies that foster global collaboration, engagement, and partnership;
3. **Promote increased investment in innovation** across public and private sectors, to advance future aviation technologies and solutions that advance the travel, logistics, and related industries;
4. **Enable the further human capital development** of the aviation industry, by investing to meet current and future skills needs;
5. **Lead dialogue and action on sustainability**; and



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6. **Champion the role of the aviation industry** in contributing to positive global and national economic, social and cultural outcomes.

Emphasizing the success of the inaugural Future Aviation Forum, the Minister of Transport confirmed that the Forum would be a recurrent event, returning in 2024.

“Based on the success of this Forum, I am proud to announce that we will host the Future Aviation Forum every two years. We look forward to hosting you again in two years’ time,” said Al-Jasser.

In hosting the Future Aviation Forum, Saudi Arabia was bestowed the Arab Civil Aviation Award for 2022, which recognized the Kingdom’s commitment to address the most pressing challenges facing global aviation.

**-ENDS-**

### Notes to editors:

#### About the Saudi Aviation Strategy

The Saudi Aviation Strategy is an ambitious strategy with privatization at its heart, which will transform the entire KSA aviation ecosystem. Its goal is to create a global investment environment that empowers the sector’s contribution to the Kingdom’s GDP while enabling the national tourism strategy and meeting the Kingdom’s growing cargo needs. It aims to lead Saudi Arabia to become the number one aviation sector in the Middle East by 2030, driven by the Kingdom’s *Vision 2030*.

The strategy is backed by private sector and government investments and is developing Saudi Arabia’s civil aviation sector across the Kingdom’s airports, airlines, aircraft, and amenities. This includes extending connectivity from 99 to more than 250 destinations across 29 airports, tripling annual passenger traffic to 330 million, including two global long haul connecting hubs, and increasing air cargo capacity to 4.5m tons.

The Saudi Aviation Strategy provides opportunities for the people of Saudi Arabia, opening access and improving ease of travel and customer experience, directly creating jobs within the sector and by enabling the tourism strategy, and empowering local businesses to expand and build a new skills base.

Led by the Kingdom’s regulator, the General Authority for Civil Aviation (GACA), the strategy will elevate Saudi aviation by supporting industries that fall under the civil aviation sector to enable their ability to adapt to global change, enhance their competitiveness and raise the level of services provided to passengers with a focus on creating a sustainable future.

#### About the Future Aviation Forum

English:

The inaugural Future Aviation Forum serves as a premier networking and deal-making event that connects global aviation leaders to shape the evolution of international air travel, drive forward solutions



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in a post-pandemic world and ensure that sector thrives in the years to come. Held from the 9-11 May in Riyadh, it features more than 120 speakers, with over 2,000 attendees and representatives from every continent expected to attend. Delegates will attend 40 sessions, focusing on three core thematic pillars: passenger experience, sustainability, and business recovery post-Covid.

Hosted by the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Forum will propel Saudi Arabia's emergence as the region's pre-eminent aviation hub.

For more information, please visit <https://www.futureaviationforum.com/>

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