

Ministry of Transportation
and Telecommunications



وزارة المواصلات والاتصالات

NATIONAL AVIATION STRATEGY

2026 - 2027

“WE BUILD BRIDGES, TO THE WORLD AND FOR THE WORLD”



The National Aviation Strategy of the Kingdom of Bahrain

“WE BUILD BRIDGES, TO THE WORLD AND FOR THE WORLD”



The Kingdom of Bahrain, through its National Aviation Strategy (2026 – 2027), aims to establish itself as a leading regional and global center of excellence in the aviation sector by building an integrated ecosystem aligned with the highest international standards. Our goal is to strengthen global connectivity, support economic growth and deliver high-quality services, positioning Bahrain as a preferred destination for airlines, a leading center for business aviation and a high value hub for MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) and cargo logistics.



Strategic Objectives



Building an integrated aviation ecosystem in accordance with global standards

Aligning all aviation sector partners around 3 main principles: safety, ease and speed of service delivery, and cost-efficient quality.



Transforming the airport into a global center of excellence

- Preferred destination for airlines.
- Strengthening the airport's position as a regional center for business aviation, MRO and logistics.
- Excellent regulatory frameworks.



Expanding Global Connectivity



The strategy extends 2026 - 2027, and it is based on the following pillars:

- A. Regulation and Governance**
- B. Operational Activities and Services**
- C. Infrastructure and Sustainability**

A.Regulation and Governance

1 Developing legislation and regulatory frameworks to ensure safety and customer centricity

- 1.1 Improving and accelerating recruitment and training procedures within Civil Aviation Affairs.
- 1.2 Recognizing certificates issued by companies holding internationally accredited authorities (e.g. ICAO, FAA, EASA, CAAS, TCCA, UK CAA) without the need for equivalency, initial, or periodic audit procedures at the time of renewal.
- 1.3 Updating legislation, regulations, and regulatory circulars by leveraging best practices and globally accredited regulatory frameworks.
- 1.4 Keeping pace with the latest developments in technologies and emerging technologies in the aviation industry and adapting to customer requirements.

2 Digital transformation and deployment of artificial intelligence in the aviation sector workflows.

- 2.1 Linking digital systems across aviation sector entities.
- 2.2 Developing education and training within the aviation sector through investment in simulators and digital learning platforms.
- 2.3 Transitioning from paper-based procedures to fully digital workflows, enabling faster completion of procedures, reducing process time, allowing the use of digital signatures and submitting electronic documents.

3 Enhancing the efficiency of airspace management in accordance with best practices and policies.

- 3.1 Contributing to the development of upper airspace management for the Gulf Cooperation Council states.
- 3.2 Implementing Free Route Airspace to enable airlines to select the optimal and shortest flight paths between entry and exit points of the upper airspace, thereby improving airspace efficiency in the Gulf region.
- 3.3 Investing in the development of an unmanned air traffic management system (UTM) for drones, unmanned aerial vehicles, and electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft (eVTOLs), and deploying them across various sectors such as logistics services, infrastructure inspection, law enforcement and emergency response.



B. Operational Activities and Services



4 Establishing the Kingdom of Bahrain as a competitive and leading regional center for business aviation.

- 4.1 Developing a dedicated legal framework for business aircraft carrying fewer than 20 passengers.
- 4.2 Streamlining registration and operational procedures for business aircraft owned by foreign entities under the Bahraini (AOC), to make Bahrain the fastest country for aircraft registration.
- 4.3 Allocating dedicated areas for private aircraft hangars and promoting their development at both the regional and global levels.
- 4.4 Promoting Bahrain, in cooperation with operators, manufacturers and intermediaries, to attract companies and providers of business aviation solutions.



5 Enhancing the attractiveness of the Kingdom of Bahrain to become a preferred destination for airlines.

- 5.1 Reviewing service charges for both Civil Aviation Affairs and Bahrain International Airport, based on the cost-recovery principle, with the objective of reducing costs for airlines.
- 5.2 Completing passenger procedures for connectivity within 40 minutes, monitoring key performance indicators (KPIs) for operational processes and measuring airline satisfaction levels.
- 5.3 Promoting the passenger experience at Bahrain International Airport through obtaining Skytrax Awards.
- 5.4 Launching a Self-Hubbing program at Bahrain International Airport to support passengers in planning their own self-connecting journeys.
- 5.5 Launching the Connecting Bahrain Program to attract travelers and promote tourism.
- 5.6 Updating the Connecting Bahrain Program in coordination with relevant entities, with the objective of attracting business travelers and promoting tourism.
- 5.7 Granting Fifth and Seventh Freedom Air Transport Rights to increase global connectivity.



6 Providing distinguished services in MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) and cargo logistics.

- 6.1 Allocating additional facilities for aircraft hangars at Bahrain International Airport to support maintenance, repair and overhaul services.
- 6.2 Exploring and attracting investment opportunities in globally limited and rare capabilities, such as aircraft painting hangars and specialized maintenance facilities.
- 6.3 Establishing a multimodal logistics corridor that supports cargo operations and intermediate services, reduces handling and transfer times and enhances connectivity between the port and the airport.

C. Infrastructure and Sustainability



7 Developing the aviation sector infrastructure.

- 7.1 Increasing the operational airside capacity at Bahrain International Airport.
- 7.2 Expanding and enhancing aircraft hangar facilities at Bahrain International Airport, with a focus on business aviation activities and MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) services.



8 Adopting environmental and sustainable practices in the aviation ecosystem.

- 8.1 Enhancing green infrastructure to improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact.
- 8.2 Encouraging the adoption and use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).
- 8.3 Cooperating with fuel suppliers and international partners to ensure the availability of sustainable aviation fuel in the local market.



9 Developing aviation sector human capital and building the skills of future generations

- 9.1 Partnerships with universities and training centers to develop specialized educational programs in the aviation sector, including academic curricula, practical training, professional certification and defining employment opportunities within the sector.
- 9.2 Attracting and recruiting skilled national talent within the civil aviation sector.
- 9.3 Developing and qualifying the current workforce in the aviation sector to raise performance levels and elevate them in accordance with international standards.

The National Aviation Strategy of the Kingdom of Bahrain (2026–2027) represents a pivotal step towards a more connected and sustainable future. We are committed to building an integrated aviation ecosystem that meets the highest global standards, reinforcing Bahrain's position as a leading regional hub. We invite all sector partners to join us in realizing this ambitious vision and making Bahrain a preferred destination for airlines and business aviation and a center of excellence for MRO and logistics. Together, we build bridges to the world and for the world.

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