* **The Meeting of the Heads of UGCs/Equivalent Bodies**

The Heads of State or Governments at the 11th Summit (Kathmandu, 04-06 January 2002), while emphasizing the importance of mutual recognition of the educational institutions, agreed to give the necessary impetus to realize the goal of a common regional educational standard through uniform methods of instruction and teaching aids.  The leaders were unanimous in recognizing the benefit of introducing SAARC in the national curricula at appropriate levels of study in order to enhance the awareness about Association’s goals and objectives.

During the Twenty Eight sessions of the Standing Committee (Kathmandu, 19/20 August 2002), the delegation of Bangladesh proposed to consider the possibility of holding a meeting of the Heads of University Grants Commissions/Equivalent Bodies to propose the modalities for implementation of the recommendations by the Eleventh SAARC Summit.

It emphasized the need for having mutual recognition of the educational degrees in the region and to devise appropriate strategies for raising the quality of education through the exchange of information among the Universities in the region.

Accordingly, the First meeting was held in 2003 and during the meeting, it was considered important points of Education in the SAARC region, such as, recommended that the minimum period to acquire a Bachelor’s Degree (excluding Professional Degrees) should be 12+3 years of Education in SAARC Member States, emphasized that the medium of instruction at the highest level of education should be English, which would facilitate mutual recognition of Degrees, etc.

From 2003 up to 2015, ten meetings were held to consider the important issues on education of the region and made many recommendations to enhance the quality of the education in the region.

* **1st meeting**: in Dhaka, on 11-12 October 2003
* **2nd meeting**: in Islamabad, on 15-16 June 2004
* **3rd meeting**: in Colombo on 26-27 January, 2007
* **4th meeting**: in New Delhi, 2 May 2008
* **5th meeting**: in Malé, on 1-2 June 2009
* **6th meeting**: in Dhaka, 18-19 July 2010
* **7th meeting**: in Thimphu, 19-20 April 2012
* **8th meeting**: in Kathmandu, 17-18 April 2013
* **9th meeting**: in Colombo on 12-13 May 2014
* **10th meeting**: in Islamabad on 15-16 June 2015

The Meeting, along with its Report also issued a Statement on ‘Higher Education in South Asia’.

* **11th meeting**: in Bandos Island, the Maldives on 02-03 April 2017

The Meeting decided to name the common website of the University Grants Commissions/Equivalent Bodies of SAARC as ‘Higher Education Network of SAARC (HENSA)’