د بسر ثو چارو وزير



وزير امور خارجه

## MINISTER of FOREIGN AFFAIRS AFGHANISTAN

December 08, 2020

His Excellency Mr. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon Secretary General South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to extend my warm felicitations and best wishes to yourself, Directors, Secretariat staff members and the people of South Asia on the occasion of the Thirty Sixth SAARC Charter Day.

SAARC reflects the determination and resolution of our leaders and the people of South Asia to work together towards tackling our shared challenges. We believe that prosperity, peace and stability can be achieved by taking into consideration the collective interests and opportunities that can benefit our region. On this basis, Afghanistan attaches a great importance to its membership in SAARC for a more integrated, stable and prosperous South Asia.

We strongly believe that the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, provide a unique opportunity for SAARC Member States to further strengthen economic cooperation, regional integration and connectivity to better address the challenges, including COVID-19.

On this auspicious day, I would like to reiterate Afghanistan's firm commitment to the goals and principles enshrined in the SAARC Charter and reaffirm that Afghanistan stands ready to work closely with all Member States of the Association and make it a robust vehicle of regional cooperation and connectivity in our region.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mohammad Haneef Atmar Minister of Foreign Affairs