



**SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION
SECRETARIAT**

SECRETARY GENERAL

MESSAGE

**THIRTY-EIGHTH SAARC CHARTER DAY
(08 December 2022)**

On the occasion of the Thirty-eighth Charter Day of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), I extend warmest felicitations to the respected Heads of State and Government, the peoples and the Governments of the Member States.

At the First SAARC Summit in Dhaka, the South Asian Heads of State or Government launched SAARC by endorsing its Charter on 08 December 1985. Since then, the Member States, SAARC Secretariat, Specialized Bodies and Regional Centres have been commemorating the Charter Day as a mark of respect to the visionary Leaders, who founded SAARC. The commemoration is also aimed at promoting awareness about SAARC and enhancing South Asian identity and solidarity within the region and beyond.

As a common platform of the countries in South Asia that are bound by ties of history and culture, SAARC is a tangible manifestation of the determination of its Member States to promote peace, stability, amity and progress in the region through strict adherence to the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, national independence, non-use of force and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and peaceful settlement of disputes. SAARC aims to promote peace, freedom, social justice and economic prosperity by fostering mutual understanding, good neighbourly relations and meaningful cooperation among its Member States. Moreover, the Association provides a forum to its Member States to share their common problems in order to find common solutions to them. Though SAARC commenced regional collaboration in a few agreed areas in the beginning, it today encompasses almost every sphere of human activity, having a bearing on the life and livelihood of its peoples.

As we commemorate the Thirty-eighth SAARC Charter Day, we need to redouble our efforts to further strengthen SAARC in order to address the hopes and aspirations of our peoples across the region.

E. n. Weerakoon
(Esala Ruwan Weerakoon)

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Post Box No. 4222, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel. : 4-221785, Fax : 4-227033, 4223991
E-mail : saarc@saarc-sec.org
Web-site : <http://www.saarc-sec.org>