



**SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION
SECRETARIAT**

**MESSAGE
THIRTY-NINTH SAARC CHARTER DAY**

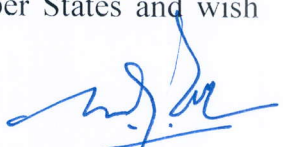
Today is the historic day for South Asia Region as it marks the Thirty-ninth Charter Day of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). At the First Summit in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the South Asian Heads of State/Government launched SAARC by endorsing its Charter on 08 December 1985, thereby creating the largest regional organization representing more than one quarter of the global population.

SAARC is the 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 the United Nations Charter and Non-Alignment, particularly respect for 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. The Association is based on the premise of an increasingly interdependent world. The objectives of peace, freedom, social justice and economic prosperity are best achieved in the South Asian region by fostering mutual understanding, good neighbourly relations and meaningful cooperation among the Member States which are bound by ties of history and culture.

SAARC fully recognizes the common challenges, interests and aspirations of the peoples of South Asia and the need for joint action and enhanced cooperation among the Member States. It also recognizes that regional cooperation among the countries of South Asia is mutually beneficial, desirable and necessary not only for attaining national and collective self-reliance, but also for promoting the welfare of its peoples and improving their quality of life by achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as set by the United Nations.

SAARC is essentially a people-centric organization, created to ameliorate the living standards of its peoples. Though at its initial stage, SAARC concentrated on important areas for regional collaboration, its ambit continued to grow over the years. In its fourth decade of existence today, SAARC encompasses almost every sphere of human activity, having a bearing on the lives and livelihoods of its peoples and is committed to continue its efforts for the development of South Asia Region.

On the auspicious occasion of the Thirty-ninth Charter Day of SAARC, I extend warmest felicitations to the peoples and Governments of the esteemed Member States and wish peace, progress and prosperity of this Region.


(Md. Golam Sarwar)
Secretary-General

Kathmandu, 08 December 2023