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தினேஷ் குணவர்த்தன - (பா.உ.) வெளிநாட்டு அமைச்சர்  
Dinesh Gunawardena - (M.P.) Foreign Minister

**Message on the Occasion of the Commemoration of 36<sup>th</sup> SAARC Charter Day,  
08<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

On the happy and auspicious occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SAARC Charter Day, I am delighted to extend my warmest felicitations and sincere good wishes to the Secretary General and his diligent staff at the SAARC Secretariat and the people of South Asia.

Over the past 35 years, the SAARC nations - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka - have overcome many challenges and achieved success in terms of bringing about qualitative changes in the lives of the peoples of South Asia. It has become a platform for greater interactions among various stakeholders in the South Asia region, while fostering friendship amongst our peoples.

As we mark another anniversary since the establishment of SAARC in 1985, it is my firm conviction that new areas need to be pursued to reinvigorate the regional cooperation agenda.

Sri Lanka remains fully committed to the founding principles of the SAARC Charter and will continue to play a constructive role. I reiterate Sri Lanka's fullest cooperation to the SAARC in its efforts to promote regional cooperation in the Subcontinent.

On this auspicious day, I call upon the fellow Member States to celebrate this anniversary with the firm determination to achieve our shared vision of a prosperity for the people of the region.

**Dinesh Gunawardena, M.P.**  
Foreign Minister

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