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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka


Commemoration of 37th SAARC Charter Day, 8th December 2021

On behalf of the people and the government of Sri Lanka, I wish to felicitate the governments and the citizens of the Member States as we celebrate the Thirty Seventh SAARC Charter Day. I would also like to extend my greetings to the Secretary General and his staff at the Secretariat on this special occasion.

Since its inception in 1985, SAARC has been playing a pivotal role in promoting cooperation and collaboration among Member States in the social, economic, cultural and technical fields. Over the last three decades, SAARC has made steady progress in promoting the welfare of the peoples of the region and improving their quality of life.

Sri Lanka as a founding member of SAARC, remain determined to work together with other members in realizing the aspirations that our Leaders envisioned for their peoples. In pursuance of our common endeavour, I reiterate Sri Lanka's firm commitment to play its part in strengthening regional cooperation towards enhanced economic relations and people to people contacts.

It is my sincere hope that by focusing on our strengths and by working together as an organization, we will succeed in achieving the objectives of the Organization in a spirit of collective responsibility.


Gotabaya Rajapaksa

December 6, 2021

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



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இலங்கையின் பிரதம அமைச்சர்

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

**Message from the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa for the
Commemoration of the 37th SAARC Charter Day**

As we mark the 37th anniversary of the founding of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), it gives me great pleasure to extend warm greetings from the Government and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Secretary General of SAARC, the staff at the SAARC Secretariat, regional bodies and people of all SAARC Member States.

Through adhering to the principles of sovereign equality and mutual respect among Member States, SAARC has striven to promote regional cooperation, build economic synergies and transform the quality of life of the peoples of South Asia. SAARC Member States have also taken commendable collective action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Sri Lanka believes that SAARC could achieve much more through the spirit of cooperation that was instrumental in its formation.

On this special occasion, I wish to assure the full commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to play a key role in strengthening regional economic cooperation and friendly relations between our people.

Let us unite to work together as an organization, ensuring a meaningful contribution towards the socioeconomic development of the region.

Mahinda Rajapaksa

Mahinda Rajapaksa

Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

December 6, 2021



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பேராசிரியர் ஜி.எல்.பீரிஸ்,பாஉ., வெளிநாட்டு அமைச்சர்
Professor G. L. Peiris, MP, Foreign Minister

Message from the Hon. Foreign Minister

I wish to convey my heartfelt facilitations and best wishes on the occasion of the Thirty Seventh SAARC Charter Day on 08th December 2021.

SAARC was established on the pillars of friendship, trust and understanding by our Leaders in order to promote the welfare of our people for attaining economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region. Creation of SAARC regional organisations led to new avenues of cooperation which ensured a better life for our people.

While Sri Lanka recognises the achievements of the SAARC, there is a requirement for enhanced cooperation among the Member States.

Despite the fact that Covid-19 has severely disrupted the functionality of institutions globally, it is noteworthy to mention that SAARC has convened several key meetings in an online format. The Secretariat has ensured the continuation of the work in coordinating the events proposed by the Member States. It is my sincere hope that SAARC can continue to play a vital role in assisting the Member States in recovering from the economic and health crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On this special occasion, I reiterate Sri Lanka's firm support and full commitment to the work of SAARC to achieve development and success in identified areas of cooperation.


Prof. G.L Peiris, M.P
Foreign Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

6th December, 2021