



The Prime Minister of Nepal

Message

On the occasion of the 39th SAARC Charter Day, I would like to extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to the peoples and governments of the Member States of SAARC.

The decade of 1980s marked a period of special importance for the South Asian region and its peoples as leaders of the region interacted intensely and resolved to chart a new path of regional integration and development in economic, social, cultural, scientific and technical fields. It generated a sense of hope in the peoples of South Asia for shared prosperity.

The ideals set forth in the Charter and immense potentials for development and cooperation, matched by solid commitments and effective collective action, remain as promising as they were at the time of the formation. The need for closer cooperation is ever greater, given the still existing old challenges like poverty, malnutrition, and new and emerging challenges such as climate change, cyber security and natural disasters exacerbated by adverse climate.

In this context, we must reinforce the values of understanding, trust, solidarity and cooperation as enshrined in the SAARC Charter through our common efforts and harmonious actions. As a founding member and Chair of SAARC, Nepal is fully committed to doing its part to energize the SAARC process and make it more vibrant, effective and result oriented.

YAVS
Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'

Kathmandu, 8 December 2023



Government of Nepal

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Singha Durbar
Kathmandu, Nepal

Message

It gives me immense pleasure to extend greetings and best wishes to the Members States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the peoples of South Asia on the auspicious occasion of the 39th anniversary of the SAARC Charter Day.

Four decades ago, the leaders of South Asia perceived the potential and benefit of cooperation among themselves in economic, social, cultural and technological fields for the betterment of their peoples' lives. Therefore, they decided to embark together on a journey of regional cooperation under the platform of SAARC. As I reflect on the four-decade long journey of SAARC, it has matured as an institution. It is satisfying to note that norms of institutionalized structures of regional cooperation have been established; cooperation on identified areas have progressed; and people-to-people contacts have been fostered. Most importantly, a profound sense of affinity, identity, unity and solidarity has developed among the peoples of South Asia.

While there have been considerable progress and achievements in socio-economic fields, SAARC continues to face challenges in achieving its desirable levels of success as envisioned in its Charter.

We are living in a time of unprecedented challenges. Creating economic recovery and growth after COVID-19, geopolitical tensions and its consequences, poverty and climate crisis are some of the major challenges that loom large in our region. The need for collaboration and cooperation among Member States is, therefore, more vital now than ever before. Addressing these challenges calls for high level political understanding and concerted collective action.

SAARC as a block has already established itself as a platform for advancing cooperation in South Asia. As home to more than one sixth of the global population and one of the most vibrant regions in terms of economic, political, and social point of view, the world is watching us with a lot of interest. It is our collective responsibility to work towards realizing its full potential and create a better future for our people.

While we commemorate yet another Charter Day, let us resolve to amplify our efforts to make this association vibrant and thriving for years to come.

Narayan Prakash Saud

Kathmandu, 8 December 2023