Message

I extend warm greetings and best wishes to all the Member States and the people of South Asia on the happy occasion of 35th SAARC Charter Day. We are connected together by our common civilizational linkages, socio-cultural ethos and geographical contiguity. This commonality and our collective resolve to raise the standards of living of the people of this region gave birth to this regional body thirty-five years ago in 1985.

The SAARC Charter aims to improve the quality of life of the people of South Asia through accelerated economic growth, social progress and cultural development and create environment for them to realize their full potentials.

The SAARC is a common forum for South Asian people. It is an expression of regional solidarity in our fight against poverty, climate change and terrorism, among others.

The SAARC has become a common identity for the people of this region. Thirty-five years of cooperation has made us mature enough to handle the pressing problems of our region and better engage in the areas of cooperation such as agriculture, environment, education, trade, tourism and human resource development.

The hope of over 1.7 billion people of this region is hinged on the effectiveness of this regional organization. I believe that the Member States should place top commitment to make this regional body dynamic and result-oriented. Given the
slow pace of progress in the SAARC process in recent times, there is a need to reinvigorate it by holding the stalled Summit at an early date. Nepal is firmly committed to the SAARC Charter, its principles and objectives. As a founding Member and current Chair of SAARC, Nepal pledges to continue to constructively engage with fellow members to collectively realize the hope of the people of this region.

I hope this Charter Day will inspire all people and the Member States of this regional body to renew their commitment to reinvigorate the regional cooperation process for peace and prosperity in South Asia.

K P Sharma Oli

Kathmandu, 8 December 2019