**SAARC CONVENTION ON COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT**

(Signed during the Sixteenth SAARC Summit)

Thimphu, 28-29 April 2010

The Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) comprising the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republic of India, the Republic of Maldives, Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”:

**Mindful of the objectives as enshrined in the SAARC Charter;**

Recalling the decision of the Twelfth SAARC Summit on the importance of an early and effective implementation of the SAARC Environment Plan of Action and drafting a Regional Environment Treaty;

Also recalling the Thirteenth SAARC Summit Declaration to consider modalities for having a Regional Environment Treaty in furthering environmental cooperation among the SAARC Member States while expressing deep concern at the continuing degradation of environment and reaffirming the importance of concerted efforts in the protection and preservation of environment;

Recognizing the interest of the Parties to promote sustainable management of environment and natural resources;

Taking into consideration the deep concerns of the Member States on the unabated degradation of the environment and the adverse impacts of climate change in the region and their shared interest in its conservation for the well-being of present and future generations;

Determined to promote closer cooperation among the Parties for the protection and preservation, management and enhancement of environment;