* **Cooperation with the International Organizations**
* **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by SAARC and UNESCO in January 2008. At the Opening Session of the Meeting of Senior Officials preceding the First Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Education/Higher Education held in Colombo on 26 March 2009, SAARC- UNESCO cooperation in the field of Higher Education was focused.

According to the MoU, SAARC and UNESCO have agreed to cooperate mutually, as appropriate and possible ways, to help Member States to Achieve education for all, agreed upon at the World Education Forum, Dakar, 2000;

Achieve education- related SAARC Development Goals (SDGs);

Promote pluralism through education by promoting dialogue among civilizations;

Promote science and technology education;

Quality education and teacher training through increased use of ICTs and distance learning conserve the cultural;

Tangible and intangible heritage of the Member States;

Promote and protect the cultural diversity of the Member States, in particular their cultural natural and intangible heritage as well as through their cultural expressions, while supporting a fruitful intercultural an interreligious dialogue, notable through’

(i) Protecting and safeguarding activities for cultural heritage

(ii) Promoting accession to and implementation of UNESCO’s relevant standard-setting instruments; and

(iii) Enhancing capacity-building initiatives in these fields;

Protect their environment and ecosystem;

Build the capacity required of further advancement of education, culture, communication and information and the sciences in the Member States;

Facilitate technical cooperation including capacity-building in the areas of education, culture, communication and information and the sciences;

Promote freedom of expression and universal access to information.