

## TEXT OF THE MESSAGE BY HIS EXCELLENCY IBRAHIM MOHAMED SOLIH PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

QUOTE

Malé, 8 December 2021

On the occasion of the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to the Secretary-General, the Secretariat, all entities affiliated with SAARC and the people of the South Asian countries.

The signing of the Charter on 8 December 1985, gave our region a profound sense of identity and unity, and it is heartening to see increased interaction between South Asian people. To achieve peace, prosperity, and stability in the region, we must always work together to promote regional cooperation.

As the world struggles to emerge from the global Covid-19 pandemic, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Member States for their invaluable contribution towards our collective efforts to combat the pandemic.

On this auspicious day, I would like to reiterate Maldives' commitment to the SAARC principles and values of unity and cooperation. It is my sincere hope that as members of this unique region, we will rise above our differences and work together to achieve our shared goal of a better and more prosperous future for the people of South Asia.

> Ibrahim Mohamed Solih President of the Republic of Maldives