

**Message from the Prime Minister of Pakistan
on the Thirty-Seventh SAARC Charter Day**

(08 December 2021)

On behalf of the people and the government of Pakistan, I wish to felicitate the SAARC Member States and their citizens on the Thirty-Seventh anniversary of SAARC Charter Day.

We celebrate today, the spirit with which our leaders, entrusted by the people, worked towards the culmination of the SAARC Charter and the subsequent establishment of SAARC. This day reminds us of the enormous responsibility placed on our shoulders by our people, and presents an opportunity for us to address the common challenges we face.

As founding member of SAARC, Pakistan has remained committed to the objectives of the organization as enshrined in its Charter and has always played an active role in the SAARC processes and activities. As per our commitment to regional cooperation, Pakistan has provided financial and medical assistance to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, under the SAARC Covid-19 Emergency Fund.

We believe that SAARC can provide a conducive and congenial atmosphere to build economic synergies and transform the quality of life of the people of South Asia, as this region is blessed with enormous human and natural resources and holds great promise for sustainable economic development.

Pakistan considers SAARC an important instrument for collective response to regional challenges, particularly the development needs. Pakistan further believes that effective and result-oriented regional cooperation can best be achieved by adhering to the cardinal principles of sovereign equality and mutual respect as embodied in the SAARC Charter.

We continue to hope that artificial obstacles created in the way of holding the next SAARC Summit will be removed soon and SAARC will be enabled to function as an effective instrument of regional cooperation.

I sincerely wish all the people of the South Asian region happiness, prosperity, and peace. I also hope that SAARC will regain its vitality and contribute towards achieving a better future for our peoples.
