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## Commemoration of 37th SAARC Charter Day, 8th December 2021

On behalf of the people and the government of Sri Lanka, I wish to felicitate the governments and the citizens of the Member States as we celebrate the Thirty Seventh SAARC Charter Day. I would also like to extend my greetings to the Secretary General and his staff at the Secretariat on this special occasion.

Since its inception in 1985, SAARC has been playing a pivotal role in promoting cooperation and collaboration among Member States in the social, economic, cultural and technical fields. Over the last three decades, SAARC has made steady progress in promoting the welfare of the peoples of the region and improving their quality of life.

Sri Lanka as a founding member of SAARC, remain determined to work together with other members in realizing the aspirations that our Leaders envisioned for their peoples. In pursuance of our common endeavour, I reiterate Sri Lanka's firm commitment to play its part in strengthening regional cooperation towards enhanced economic relations and people to people contacts.

It is my sincere hope that by focusing on our strengths and by working together as an organization, we will succeed in achieving the objectives of the Organization in a spirit of collective responsibility.

WWW by W Gotabaya Rajapaksa

December 6, 2021