

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



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

QUOTE

Malé, 8 December 2020

On the Thirty-Sixth Anniversary of the founding of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) I extend warm greetings and best wishes to the Secretary-General of SAARC, the SAARC Secretariat, SAARC bodies and entities, and to all of our SAARC family.

This year we mark SAARC Charter Day amidst a global pandemic. The role of SAARC in fostering a strong regional identity and enhancing cooperation between our governments is now especially evident. Overcoming the challenge of this pandemic will require the whole region to work together regularly and in good faith. The timely video conference of SAARC leaders hosted by India and the establishment of the SAARC Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund to address the immediate impacts of the disease is a strong reaffirmation of the value of South Asian regional cooperation. It is also a healthy sign of mutual regional goodwill that, despite the difficult circumstances, we have been able to hold several meetings and conduct several activities using virtual platforms.

As we celebrate SAARC Charter Day, let us redouble our commitment to ensure that this organization lives up to its full potential. It is crucial that we regularly engage and consult with one another, and coordinate our efforts on mutually important issues, in order to reap the full benefits of regional cooperation. Let me reiterate that the Government of Maldives has been fully committed to SAARC since its inception in 1985. We remain eager to work together with our neighbors to strengthen the peace, prosperity and stability of the region.

Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
President of the Republic of Maldives

UNQUOTE



TEXT OF THE MESSAGE BY
HIS EXCELLENCY ABDULLA SHAHID,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

QUOTE:

Male', 8 December 2020

On the occasion of the Thirty Sixth Anniversary of the founding of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), I am pleased to extend warm greetings and sincere good wishes to the Secretary General, the staff of the Secretariat, all SAARC entities and to the people of South Asia.

Today, as we celebrate the SAARC Charter day amidst a global pandemic, the necessity to have an organization that promotes regional cooperation is ever more evident and crucial.

As the sole regional platform in South Asia, I am heartened to see that SAARC brought Governments together to form cooperative partnerships in the spirit of friendship, trust and solidarity in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The timely convening of the SAARC Leaders meeting and the establishment of the COVID-19 emergency fund, as well as other targeted activities to address the pandemic are commendable. These unprecedented times clearly demonstrated that SAARC has the capability to unite and respond to emerging challenges with the latest technological advancements and by utilizing the opportunities presented by the SAARC forum.

We must therefore take the lessons learnt from the pandemic to heart, adopt good practices and experiences, and more importantly, be more innovative, efficient and coordinated in our approach to tackle other pressing issues in our region. Simultaneously, our efforts must be consolidated by sincere and strong political will, and collective motivation to make SAARC more effective as an organization. Our goal should be to build back SAARC region better - to achieve a greener, more inclusive and sustainable development for all our members.

Maldives remains committed to SAARC, and I wish all SAARC member states, a peaceful, successful and prosperous future.

Abdulla Shahid
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Maldives

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