APPENDIX

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is a regional organization whose basic aim is to accelerate the process of economic and social development in the member states through joint action in certain agreed areas of cooperation.

SAARC is a manifestation of determination of the peoples of South Asia to cooperate regionally, to work together towards finding solutions to their common problems in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding and to the creation of an order based on mutual respect, equity and shared benefits.

Evolution

The idea of a regional association in South Asia was first mooted in November 1980. Following consultations amongst the countries of the region, Foreign Secretaries of the seven countries met for the first time in Colombo in April 1981. This was followed a few months later by the meeting of the Committee which identified five broad areas for regional cooperation. The Foreign Ministers in their first meeting in New Delhi in August 1983 formally launched the Integrated Programme of Action through the adoption of Declaration on South Asian Association for Regional
Cooperation (SAARC). South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established at the Dhaka Summit held on 7-8 December 1985.

Objectives

* To promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;
* To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realise their full potentials;
* To promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;
* To contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;
* To promote collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural and scientific fields;
* To strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;
* To strengthen cooperation among themselves international forums on matters of common interests; and
* To cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.

Principles

* Cooperation within the framework of the Association is based in respect for the principles of sovereign
equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and mutual benefit.

* Such cooperation is to complement and not to substitute bilateral or multilateral cooperation.

* Such cooperation should be consistent with bilateral and multilateral obligations of the member states.

General Provisions

* Decisions at all levels in SAARC are taken on the basis of unanimity.

* Bilateral and contentious issues are excluded from its deliberations.

Areas of Cooperation

The present activities and future Programmes of SAARC cover Integrated Programme of Action (IPA) comprising eleven broad areas as follows:

- Agriculture and Forestry
- Health and Population Activities
- Meteorology
- Postal Services
- Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse
- Rural Development
- Science and Technology
- Sports, Arts and Culture
Telecommunications
- Transport
- Women in Development

The role of the Secretary General and the Secretariat is to coordinate and monitor the implementation of SAARC activities, service the meetings of the Association and serve as the channel of communication and linkage between SAARC and other international organizations.

Charter of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

We, the Heads of State or Government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;

Desirous of promoting peace, stability amity and progress in the region through strict adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter and Nonalignment, particularly respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, national independence, non-use of force and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and peaceful settlement of all disputes;

Conscious that in an increasingly interdependent world, the objectives of peace, freedom, social justice and economic prosperity are best achieved in the South Asian region by fostering mutual understanding, good neighbourly relations and meaningful cooperation among the Member States which are bound by the ties of history and culture;
Aware of the common problems, interests and aspirations of the peoples of South Asia and the need for joint action and enhanced cooperation within their respective political and economic systems and cultural traditions;

Convinced that regional cooperation among the countries of South Asia is mutually beneficial, desirable and necessary for promoting the welfare and improving the quality of life of the peoples of the region;

Convinced further that economic, social and technical cooperation among the countries of South Asia would contribute significantly to national and collective self-reliance;

Recognizing that increased cooperation, contacts and exchanges among the countries of the region will contribute to the promotion of friendship and understanding among their peoples;

Recalling the Declaration signed by their Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on August 2, 1983 and noting the progress achieved in regional cooperation;

Reaffirming their determination to promote such cooperation within an institutional framework:

DO HEREBY AGREE to establish an organization to be known as South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) hereinafter referred to as the Association, with the following objectives, principles, institutional and
financial arrangements:

ARTICLE I

Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be:

a) to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;

b) to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realise their full potentials;

c) to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;

d) to contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;

e) to promote active collaboration assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields;

f) to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;

g) to strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests; and

h) to cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.
ARTICLE II

Principles

Cooperation within the framework of the Association shall be based on respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and mutual benefit.

Such cooperation shall not be a substitute for bilateral and multilateral cooperation but shall complement them.

Such cooperation shall not be inconsistent with bilateral and multilateral obligations.

ARTICLE III

Meetings of the Heads of State or Government

The Heads of State or Government shall meet once a year or more often as and when considered necessary by the Member States.

ARTICLE IV

Council of Ministers

A Council of Ministers consisting of the Foreign Ministers of the Member States shall be established with the following functions:

a) formulation of the policies of the Association;
b) review of the progress of cooperation under the Association;
c) decision on new areas of cooperation;
d) establishment of additional mechanism under the Association as deemed necessary;
e) decision on other matters of general interest to the Association;

The Council of Ministers shall meet twice a year. Extraordinary sessions of the Council may be held by agreement among the Member States.

ARTICLE V

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee comprising the Foreign Ministers shall have the following functions:

a) overall monitoring and coordination of programme of cooperation;
b) approval of projects and programmes, and the modalities of their financing;
c) determination of inter-sectoral priorities;
d) mobilisation of regional and external resources;
e) identification of new areas of cooperation based on appropriate studies.

The Standing Committee shall submit periodic reports to the Council of Ministers and make reference to it as and
when necessary for decisions on policy matters.

ARTICLE VI

Technical Committees

Technical Committees comprising representatives of Member States shall be responsible for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of programmes in their respective areas of cooperation.

They shall have the following terms of reference:

a) determination of potential and the scope of regional cooperation in agreed areas;
b) formulation of programmes and preparation of projects;
c) determination of financial implications of sectoral programmes;
d) formulation of recommendations regarding apportionment of costs;
e) implementation and coordination of sectoral programmes;
f) monitoring of progress in implementation.

The Technical Committees shall submit periodic reports to the Standing Committee.

The Chairmanship of the Technical Committees shall normally rotate among Member States in alphabetical order every two years.

The Technical Committees may, inter-alia, use the following mechanism and modalities, if and when considered
necessary:
a) meetings of heads of national technical agencies;
b) meetings of experts in specific fields;
c) contact amongst recognized centres of excellence in the region.

ARTICLE VII

Action Committees
The Standing Committee may set up Action Committees comprising Member States concerned with implementation of projects involving more than two but not all Member States.

ARTICLE VIII

Secretariat
There shall be a Secretariat of the Association.

ARTICLE IX

Financial Arrangements
The contribution of each Member State towards financing of the activities of the Association shall be voluntary.

Each Technical Committee shall make recommendations for the apportionment of costs of implementing the programmes proposed by it.

In case sufficient financial resources cannot be mobilized within the region for funding activities of the Association, external financing from appropriate sources may
be mobilized with the approval of the Standing Committee.

ARTICLE X

General Provisions

Decisions at all levels shall be taken on the basis of unanimity.

Bilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from the deliberations.

IN FAITH WHEREOF We Have Set Our Hands and Seals Hereunto.

DONE in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on This The Eighth Day of December of the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five.
DHAKA DECLARATION

First SAARC Summit in Dhaka on 7-8 December 1985

The President of Bangladesh, the King of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Maldives, the King of Nepal, the President of Pakistan and the President of Sri Lanka met in Dhaka on 7 and 8 December, 1985.

They approved that the Standing Committee should set up a Study Group to examine the problem of terrorism as it affects the security and stability of Member States of SAARC. They further directed the Council of Ministers to consider the report of this Study Group and submit recommendations to them as to how best the Member States could cooperate among themselves to solve this issue.

They also approved that a similar exercise be carried out with regard to the problem of drug trafficking and abuse.

They decided that the member Governments should concert their views on the ongoing discussions on New International Economic Order and the improvement of the World Trading system through GATT taking particularly into account the interest of the least developed among the developing countries. For this purpose, it was decided to convene a Ministerial level meeting to prepare for it. The Heads of State or Government gratefully accepted the offer of the President of Pakistan to host both these meetings.
The Heads of State or Government emphasized that women should increasingly participate in the activities at the regional level within the framework of SAARC and that programmes and projects should be devised to ensure their active participation in the development process. They therefore directed the Standing Committee to convene a Minister Level Conference on the subject to identify the areas of activities and plan a Programme of Action. They gratefully accepted the offer of the Prime Minister of India to host such a conference.

The Heads of State or Government who have decided that the Association shall have a Secretariat directed the Foreign Ministers to consider details regarding its location, structure and financing and submit those for the considerations of Heads of State or Government.

The Heads of State or Government decided to hold their next meeting in November 1986. They gratefully accepted the offer of the Prime Minister of India to host that meeting. They also gratefully accepted the offer of the King of Bhutan to host the Annual SAARC Summit of 1987.

The Heads of State or Government unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Fourth Meeting of Foreign Ministers on the emblem of SAARC.
BANGALORE DECLARATION

Second SAARC Summit in Bangalore on 16 and 17 November, 1986

The President of Bangladesh, the King of Bhutan, Prime Minister of India, the President of Maldives, the King of Nepal, the President of Pakistan and the President of Sri Lanka met in Bangalore on 16 and 17 November, 1986.

They issued Bangalore Declaration. A Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the SAARC Secretariat was signed by the Foreign Ministers of the SAARC countries in their presence.

They welcome the announcement by His Majesty’s Government of Nepal that the Secretariat would be inaugurated in Kathmandu on 16 January 1987. They decided that the first Secretary General, His Excellency Mr. Abul Ahsan, would assume charge of this office from that date.

They also considered several new ideas for expanding and strengthening the cooperative programmes under SAARC. While approving the following ideas in principle, they directed that these be elaborated and concretized through expert level examination to be completed by March 1987, so that the reports thereon could be considered at the next Meeting of the Council:

a) A South Asian Broadcasting Programme covering both radio and television should be launched.
b) In keeping with the emphasis that the Heads of State or Government have laid on people-to-people contacts concrete steps should be taken to facilitate tourism in the region, including facilities for limited convertibility of national currencies for tourists from SAARC countries.

c) The Heads of State or Government emphasised the importance they attach to students, scholars and researchers in their countries having ready access to reliable and up-to-date information on technical, scientific and developmental matters. This need could be best met by a SAARC Documentation Centre as the repository of such information.

d) The Heads of State or Government considered that it was essential to promote increasing cross-fertilisation of ideas through greater interaction among students, scholars and academics in the SAARC countries. They, therefore, directed that a concerted programme of exchange of scholars be formulated and action taken for an early institution of SAARC scholarships, SAARC fellowships and SAARC Chairs.

e) The Heads of State or Government stressed that the idealism of youth must be harnessed for regional cooperative programmes. Nothing would be more conductive to the resurgence of South Asian consciousness than the involvement of the youth of each country with the development programmes of the other. An Organized Volunteers Programme should be
established in SAARC under which volunteers from one country would be able to work in other countries in the field of agriculture and forestry extension work.

The Heads of State or Government recalled that the planners of the SAARC countries had met in 1983. This had provided a useful opportunity for an exchange of ideas and experience in the formulation of development strategies and methods of plan implementation. They directed that another meeting of the planners of the SAARC member countries be convened at the earliest.

The Heads of State or Government took note of the recommendations of the Standing Committee on the financing of the institutional costs of regional institutions. They decided that for regional institutions where all the Member States are directly involved and benefit, the formula proposed by the Standing Committee should be used. However, in the case of projects which affect only a certain number of Member States, the formula should be used as an indicative one, which could be suitably modified on the basis of consultations among the Member States.

The Heads of State or Government also decided that the next meeting of the Council of Ministers would be held in India in May 1987. They directed that this meeting should undertake a detailed review of proposal for the establishment of regional institutions. The member countries
KATHMANDU DECLARATION

Third SAARC Summit in Kathmandu on 2 and 4 November, 1987

The President of Bangladesh, the King of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Maldives, the King of Nepal, the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the President of Sri Lanka met in Kathmandu on 2-4 November, 1987.

They issued the Kathmandu Declaration providing a renewed thrust and direction to the future course of regional cooperation in South Asia.

They considered several issues of common concern, both regional and international, and assessed the overall progress in the context of SAARC objectives.

They expressed their happiness at the signing of the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and the Agreement establishing South Asian Food Reserve by the Foreign Ministers of the SAARC Member States in their presence. They firmly believed that the Convention and the Agreement constituted landmarks in their collective endeavours to eradicate terrorism and hunger from the region.

They declared their intention to initiate the process of dealing with the causes and consequences of natural disasters and decided to commission a study on natural disasters and the protection and preservation of the environment in a well planned and comprehensive framework.
They entrusted the Secretary General with this task.

They expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved in the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Action in the eleven agreed areas of cooperation and also with the concrete programmes related to the Five New Ideas identified at the last Summit for expanding and strengthening cooperative programmes under SAARC.

They also reaffirmed their view that measures for expanding regional cooperation should be progressively carried out within a broad framework of a long term perspective and stressed, in particular, the need for further consolidation and rationalization of the on-going activities pursued with the SAARC framework.

The Heads of State or Government emphasized the need for strengthening inter-governmental efforts with increased people-to-people cooperation and called for greater participation in the non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including professional bodies in the private sector, in the process of promoting socio-economic and cultural development of South Asia as envisaged in the SAARC Charter, under the auspices of the SAARC Secretariat.

They further welcomed the establishment of the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu as well as the assumption of office by the SAARC Secretary General with effect from 16 January 1987 and considered these as important events in
strengthening the institutional framework of regional cooperation in South Asia. They expressed their appreciation to His Majesty’s Government of Nepal at the cooperation and assistance extended and facilities provided to the SAARC Secretariat.

The Heads of State or Government took note of the report submitted by the Council of Ministers relating, inter alia, to administrative structuring and financing of regional institutions and directed that for economy and efficiency all sectoral programmes should justify the establishment of such regional institutions.

They instructed that, in its examination of the question of the admission of new members and the grant of observer/guest status in the Association, the Standing Committee should also include the aspect of the establishment of relations with similar organizations.

They gratefully accepted the offer of the President of Sri Lanka to host the Fourth SAARC Summit in 1988 in Sri Lanka.

They also gratefully accepted the offer of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the Fifth SAARC Summit in Pakistan in 1989.

The Heads of State or Government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were deeply appreciative of the exemplary manner in which His Majesty
the King of Nepal discharged his responsibilities as Chairman of the Meeting. They expressed their profound gratitude for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to them by His Majesty's Government and the people of Nepal and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.
Fourth SAARC Summit in Islamabad on 29-31 December, 1986

The President of Bangladesh, the King of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Maldives, the King of Nepal, the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the President of Sri Lanka met in Islamabad from 29-31 December, 1988. The meeting was marked by an atmosphere of mutual understanding and spirit of accommodation.

The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed their commitment to the principles and objectives of the Association enshrined in the SAARC Charter and renewed their determination to work collectively towards the attainment of these objectives. They issues the Islamabad Declaration.

The Heads of State or Government were deeply shocked at the armed attack on the Republic of Maldives on 3rd November 1988 aimed at destabilising the Government and taking over the country. They strongly condemned these acts of violence which disrupted the peace and security of a Member State. They expressed full solidarity with the Government of Maldives.

The Heads of State or Government expressed concern at the high incidence of drug production, trafficking and abuse. They decided to declare 1989 as the "SAARC Year Against Drug Abuse" in order to focus attention on drug-
related problems facing the regions. They called upon Member States to prepare and implement national programmes in this regard.

They welcomed the launching of SAARC Chairs, Fellowships and Scholarships schemes and the Youth Volunteer programme. They recognized that education was one of the principal areas requiring urgent attention in the region and decided to include Education among the agreed areas of cooperation. For this purpose they decided to set up a Technical Committee and accepted the offer of Bangladesh to Chair the Committee.

The Heads of State or Government agreed to launch "SAARC 2000 - A Basic Needs Perspective" which calls for a perspective regional plan with specific targets to be met by the end of the century in areas of core interest such as food, clothing, shelter, education, primary health care, population planning and environmental protection. In this context they welcomed the offer of the Government of Pakistan to host a Centre for Human Resources Development and directed the Secretary General to convene an Expert Group meeting of member countries to work out modalities for the realisation of "SAARC 2000 - A Basic Needs Perspective".

The Heads of State or Government welcomed the idea of holding South Asian Festivals from time to time and accepted the offer of India to host the first such festival.
The Heads of State or Government directed the Standing Committee to examine the desirability of establishing a regional body to promote cultural links among member states.

They welcomed the coming into force of the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. They stressed the importance of the adoption of enabling measures at the national level that would be necessary in order to fully implement the provisions of the Convention.

They welcomed the Agreement regarding the establishment of a South Asian Food Security Reserve in August this year, which marked a major breakthrough of member countries of SAARC to assist each other in food emergency situations.

The Heads of State or Government expressed their satisfaction at the progress achieved in the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA). They recognized the need for focusing on more concrete and result-oriented activities within the SAARC framework.

They welcomed the establishment of the SAARC Agriculture Information Centre (SAIC) at Dhaka and were of the view that proposals for the setting up of the regional institutions, focusing on problems of common concern in the region, should be given priority.

They reiterated their earlier commitment to accord priority to the needs of children in national development plans. They decided to declare 1990 as the "SAARC Year of
the Girl Child" and directed that specific programmes and activities be undertaken to increase public awareness of the problems of the girl child.

They expressed satisfaction at the progress in the studies underway regarding the feasibility of cooperation in the areas of trade, manufacturing and services. In the meanwhile they directed the Secretary General to convene a special meeting of the Group of Coordinators to identify any specific areas where cooperation may be feasible immediately. They directed that the report of the Group should be presented to the next session of the Standing Committee and the Council of Ministers.

The Heads of State or Government expressed profound sorrow at the natural disasters suffered by Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Pakistan in 1988 and urged that the study on the Causes and Consequences of Natural Disasters and the Protection and Preservation of the Environment be completed in the shortest period of time so as to provide a national basis for identifying areas keeping in view the potentials and possibilities of evolving a regional plan of action, particularly to strengthen disaster management capabilities and to protect and preserve the environment.

They expressed satisfaction at the concrete steps being taken for the implementation of the SAARC Audio Visual Exchange (SAVE) Programme. They directed that social,
economic and technical themes should be given emphasis by SAVE programme.

Recalling the usefulness of the earlier Ministerial meeting on Women and Development held in India in 1986, the Heads of State or Government called for the holding of a second Ministerial level meeting and welcomed the offer of the Government of Pakistan to host the meeting.

They expressed satisfaction that pursuant to the direction given by the Kathmandu Declaration for enhancing people-to-people contact, concrete steps had been taken by including regional NGOs and professional bodies in SAARC activities.

They decided that any country in the region subscribing to the objectives and principles of the Charter may be admitted as a member of the Association by a unanimous decision of the Heads of State or Government.

The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction the effective functioning of the SAARC Secretariat and its role in coordinating SAARC activities. They appreciated the work of the SAARC Secretary General in the discharge of his responsibilities and thanked His Majesty’s Government of Nepal for the assistance and cooperation extended to the Secretariat.

The Heads of State or Government gratefully accepted the offer of the Government of Sri Lanka to host the Fifth
SAARC Summit in Colombo in 1989.

The Heads of State or Government expressed their deep appreciation for the outstanding manner in which the Prime Minister of Pakistan had conducted the meetings as Chairperson of the Fourth SAARC Summit. They are expressed profound gratitude for the gracious hospitality extended to them by the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and for the excellent arrangements for the Conference.

Important decisions taken during the Fourth SAARC Summit held in Islamabad on 29-31 December, 1988 include:

1. Education incorporated among the agreed areas of cooperation.

2. 1989 declared as "SAARC Year for Combating Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking" with a view to focussing attention on drug-related problems facing the region.

3. 1990 declared as "SAARC Year of the Girl Child" during which specific programmes and activities would be drawn up to increase public awareness of the problems of the girl child.

4. "SAARC 2000 - A Basic Needs Perspective" calling for a perspective regional plan with specific targets to be met by the end of the century in areas of core interest such as food, clothing, shelter, education, primary health care, population planning and environmental protection to be
launched.

5. Secretary General mandated to convene an Expert Group Meeting of Member States to examine the proposal for the establishment of a Centre for Human Resource Development.

6. Secretary General mandated to convene a special meeting of the Group of Coordinators to identify any specific areas of trade, manufactures and services where cooperation were feasible immediately.

7. Consideration of the proposals for the establishment of the following regional institutions deferred:
   * SAARC Arts Gallery
   * SAARC Crafts Gallery
   * Regional Software Centre
   * Institute of Transport Technology and Training

8. Supreme Court judges and members of National Parliaments of each member state made eligible to special SAARC travel documents which exempt them from visas.
MALE SUMMIT DECLARATION

Fifth SAARC Summit in Male, 21-23 November 1990

The President of Bangladesh, the King of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Maldives, the Prime Minister of Nepal, the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka met at the Fifth South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation at Male from 21-23 November 1990.

The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed their commitment to the principles and objective of SAARC and reiterated their resolve to intensify cooperation under its aegis. They issued the Male' Declaration.

They welcomed the signing of the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropics by the Ministers at Male' and undertook to take early measures to ratify the Convention.

The Heads of State or Government decided to launch the Special SAARC Travel Document which would exempt its holders from visas for travel within the region. They decided that Supreme Court Judges, Members of the National Parliaments, Heads of national academic institutions, their spouses and dependent children would be entitled to this Document.

The Heads of State or Government endorsed the decision of the Council of Ministers to launch the Scheme for the Promotion of Organised Tourism during the first half of
1991. They also welcomed the proposal for institutionalised cooperation among the tourist industries of the Member States with a view to attracting more tourists from outside the region.

They noted with satisfaction that all Member States had completed their national Studies on Trade, Manufactures and Services. They underlined the need for completing the Regional Study within the stipulated time-frame.

They decided that measures for establishing joint ventures in the field of cottage industries and handicrafts should be taken up forthwith to set a stage for promoting collective self-reliance in the region. They directed the Secretary General to appoint a group of 2-3 Experts selected from within the region, to prepare a paper suggesting the modalities for the setting up of joint ventures, sources of funding and other necessary details for consideration at the next meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The Heads of State or Government noted the proposal for the establishment of a SAARC Regional Fund and directed the Standing Committee to submit its recommendations on the proposal for consideration at the next session of the Council of Ministers.

The Heads of State or Government emphasized the importance of cooperation among the SAARC Member States in the field of mass media and directed the Secretary General
to facilitate, under the auspices of SAARC, increased interaction among federations/associations of journalists, news agencies and mass media of the region.

The Heads of State or Government welcomed the decision authorizing the Secretariat to share information and exchange reports, studies and publications with the European community (EC) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), to begin with, in the identified areas of principles of cooperation.

The Heads of State or Government expressed satisfaction that the work was well underway for the setting up of a nucleus Centre for Human resource Development in Pakistan. They were of the view that the centre would contribute towards optimizing regional cooperation in this vital field.

They called for early completion of a regional plan "SAARC 2000 - A basic Needs Perspective" to facilitate activities within a broad framework of a long perspective.

They directed that the theme of 'Poverty Alleviation Strategies be discussed in depth by Planners for formulating suitable recommendations.

The Heads of State or Government decided that in order to maintain focus on the problems of the Girl Child the Years 1991-2000 AD would be observed as the "SAARC Decade of the Girl Child". They were deeply moved by the SAARC Girl child's appeal for love and care for them and their right to
childhood. They reiterated their resolve that the welfare of the child in general and girl child in particular, would figure at the top of their list of priorities.

The Heads of State or Government emphasized the importance of regular exchange of views among representatives of the SAARC Member Countries at international and economic fora with a view to concerting positions, as far as possible, on matters of common concern. They decided to hold the Second ministerial Meeting on International Economic Issues in India in 1991.

The Heads of State or Government underlined the imperative need for providing a better habitat to the people of South Asia and decided that in order to focus attention on the problems of the Homeless, the year 1991 be observed as the "SAARC Year of Shelter". They decided that each country would organise a series of events on this theme and share their experiences in order that the people of the region could derive practical benefit from the "SAARC Year of Shelter".

They directed that the Regional Study on the Causes and Consequences of Natural Disasters and the Protection and Preservation of the Environment and the Study on the "Greenhouse Effect" and its impact on the region be finalized before the next Summit. They stressed that, pending the completion of the studies, Member States should
take necessary steps at national levels in this vital field. They decided to observe 1992 as the “SAARC Year of the Environment”.

The Heads of State or Government stressed that immediate action was required to reduce the suffering of the millions of disabled persons who lived in the SAARC region. In order to focus attention on their problems and to improve their quality of life, they decided to observe 1993 as the “SAARC Year of Disabled Persons”.

They decided that appropriate programmes should be worked out for observing the SAARC year of the Shelter 1991, the SAARC Year of the Environment 1992. In order to derive maximum benefit and to sensitize the peoples in the region in the above vital fields, they noted that Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Pakistan respectively will circulate the recommended Plans of Action for Implementation at National Level.

The Heads of State or Government noted that SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) was already functioning at Dhaka. They decided that the SAARC Tuberculosis Centre should be set up in Nepal and India. They directed that necessary steps to establish the two common Centres should be taken up urgently.

The Heads of State or Government stresses the need for adopting a more business-like and functional approach in the
conduct of meetings held under the aegis of SAARC. They requested the Chairman of the Fifth SAARC Summit and the President of Bangladesh to initiate consultations with the Member States in this regard.

The Heads of State or Government directed the Chairman of Council of Ministers to prepare recommendations on rationalizing SAARC activities with a view to promoting effective functioning of the Association.

The Heads of State or Government expressed appreciation for the pioneering work done by Ambassador Abul Ahsan, the first Secretary-General, during the formative years of the Secretariat. They welcomed his successor, Ambassador Kant Kishore Bhargava, and appreciated his valuable contribution to the on-going activities of SAARC.

They expressed profound happiness that the Fifth Summit coincided with the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Independence of the Maldives which provided them with an opportunity to express personally their solidarity with the people and the Government of the Maldives.

The Heads of State or Government highly appreciated the exemplary manner in which the President of the Republic of Maldives conducted the meetings of the Association as the Chairman of the Fifth SAARC Summit. They also expressed their sincere gratitude for the gracious hospitality extended to them by the Government and the people of the
Republic of Maldives and for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference.

Declaration of The Seventh SAARC Summit Dhaka, 10-11 April 1993.

The Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, the King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, the President of the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, the Prime Minister of Nepal, the Rt. Hon. Girija Prasad Koirala, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Nawaz Sharif and the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa met at the Seventh Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 10-11 April, 1993.

Consensus on Eradication of Poverty in South Asia

Conscious that the sheer magnitude and complexity of South Asian Poverty constituted a major political and economic challenge, the Heads of State or Government reiterated their commitment to continue to accord a high priority to its eradication from the region in the shortest possible time.

The pledged to overcome this challenge through the
implementation of appropriate proper development strategies at macro and micro levels.

In this context, the Heads of State or Government welcomed the Report of the independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation established at the Colombo Summit. The Report provided valuable insight and illustrative examples of successful poverty alleviation programmes in individual Member States.

Acknowledging that the abiding human qualities of dignity, creativity and productive Potential are eroded by chronic poverty, the Heads of State or Government reiterated their commitment to empowering the poor for enhanced growth, consistent with human development and equity.

The Heads of State or Government committed their Governments unequivocally to the eradication of poverty in South Asia, preferably by the Year 2002 A.D. through an Agenda of Action, which would, inter-alia embody:

* A strategy of social mobilization, involving the building of organizations of the poor, and their empowerment through appropriate national support mechanisms, with the assistance of respective Governments;

* A policy of decentralized agricultural development and sharply focussed household level food security through universal provision of 'Daal-Bhaat' or basic
nutritional needs;
* A policy of decentralized small scale labour intensive industrialization, with the choice of efficient and cost effective technology;
* A policy of human development, including the enhancement of the social role and status of poor women, the provision of universal primary education, skill development, primary health care, shelter for the poor and protection of children;
* A policy to support the initiatives with adequate financial resources.

The Heads of State or Government stressed that within the overall conceptual approach of "Dal-Bhaat", the right to work and right to primary education should receive priority.

The Leaders also underscored the critical link between the success of national efforts aimed at poverty alleviation and the external factors affecting growth and development. They urged all major actors in the world economic scene, particularly the industrialised countries and multilateral and regional financial institutions, and Non-Governmental Organization to create an enabling international atmosphere that is supportive of poverty alleviation programmes in South Asia. This would require a new dialogue with donors.

**Trade, Manufacturers and Services**

The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed the need to
liberalize trade as early as possible through a step by step approach. They underscored that this should be done in such a manner that all countries in the region could share the benefits of trade expansion equitably.

In this context, the Heads of State or Government welcomed the finalization of the framework Agreement on SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA). They expressed their deep satisfaction over the signing of the framework Agreement. The leaders stressed that all necessary steps should be taken to exchange trade preference among the Member States under the arrangement.

The Heads of State or Government further underlined the critical importance of urgently promoting intra-regional cooperation, particularly in the area of manufactures in order to enhance the productive capacity of the member countries, and to promote sustained growth and development to prevent interest in the larger global context.

Environment

The Heads of State or Government expressed their deep concern at the unabated degradation of the environment and recurrence of devastating natural disasters. They also underscored the risks and dangers involved in overlooking the challenge posed by these problems. They expressed their commitment to implementing at all levels — national, bilateral, regional and global — programmes for protection.
and preservation of the environment and prevention of its degradation. The Heads of State or Government recognized that the completion of the Regional Study on the "Greenhouse Effect" and its "Impact on the Region" was a significant step forward in promoting regional cooperation in this vital area. They also stressed the importance of continuing the ongoing SAARC activities in the field of environment.

Terrorism

The Heads of State or Government reiterated their unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal. They strongly deplored the adverse consequences of terrorism.

They noted with grave concern that the efforts to combat the growing threat of terrorism had resulted in the diversion of valuable scarce resources from urgent development programmes.

People-to-People Contact

The Heads of State or Government stressed the need to further promote people-to-people contact in order to ensure increased involvement of peoples of South Asia in the process of regional cooperation. In this context, they noted that the formulation of guidelines and procedures for extending recognition to regional apex bodies would facilitate participation of these bodies in promoting
regional cooperation at the people-to-people level.

The Leaders expressed the hope that the recent recognition of the SAARC Chamber of commerce and Industry would contribute positively to enhancing cooperation in the crucial areas of trade and economic relations.

**Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians**

The Heads of State or Government welcome the initiative of the Speakers of Parliaments of SAARC Countries in forming an "Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians". They were of the view that the establishment of the Association would add another important dimension to the process of regional cooperation.

**South Asian Development Fund**

The Heads of State or Government endorsed the recommendation of the Council of Ministers for the establishment and Inter-Governmental Group (IGG) on South Asian Development Fund (SADF) on an ad-hoc basis. They directed that the IGG define in clear terms the size, structure, resources and operational modalities of the proposed fund. They also directed the IGG to examine the complementarities between the SAARC Fund for Regional projects (SFRP) and SADF, and their relationship, including the possibility of their merger. They welcomed the offer of the Maldives to host the meeting of IGG.
Projection of Collective Positions

The Heads of State or Government were of the view that greater consultations among the delegations of SAARC Countries in all international fora on the major issues of common concern to them would be in the interest of all their countries. They felt that the development of collective positions on such issues in the international fora would enhance the international profile of South Asia and would enable the countries in the region to articulate their condition on them more effectively.