

Index for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): Comparison of the provisions of the draft Global Pact for the Environment

http://saarc-sec.org/areas_of_cooperation/area_detail/environment-natural-disasters-and-biotechnology/click-for-details_6

<https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/draft-project-of-the-global-pact-for-the-environment.pdf>

GLOBAL PACT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE	SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC) INSTRUMENTS	SAARC Sections Elaborated
<p>Article 1 – Right to an ecologically sound environment Every person has the right to live in an ecologically sound environment adequate for their health, well-being, dignity, culture and fulfilment.</p>	<p>"SAARC Environmental Action Plan" (Paragraph 5)</p>	<p>5. The protection of the environment is considered as the axis of the Action Plan, and human well-being is its ultimate goal.</p>
	<p>"Thimphu Statement on Climate Change" (Principle viii)</p>	<p>viii. Evolve national plans, and where appropriate regional projects, on protecting and safeguarding the archeological and historical infrastructure of South Asia from the adverse effects of Climate Change;</p>
	<p>SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation on Environment - "Delhi Statement" (Paragraph 5)</p>	<p>5. The Ministers re-affirmed the importance of the region’s forests as a unique treasure, both for their rich biodiversity and for the livelihood they provide to the forest-dependent people of South Asia...</p>
	<p>SAARC Declaration on Climate Change</p>	<p>We, the Foreign Ministers of member states of SAARC, are deeply concerned that the adverse effects of climate change threaten human lives and livelihoods, sustainable development, and the very existence of many developing countries, particularly in South Asia. We believe that climate change is a phenomenon that impacts on the right to development and human security.</p>
<p>Article 2 – Duty to take care of the environment Every State or international institution, every person, natural</p>	<p>"SAARC Environmental Action Plan" (Paragraph 5, 6d)</p>	<p>5. The protection of the environment is considered as the axis of the Action Plan, and human well-being is its ultimate goal.</p> <p>6d. Increasing people's sensitivity to and involvement in, finding solutions for environmental problems in the region through awareness and educational programmes.</p>

<p>or legal, public or private, has the duty to take care of the environment. To this end, everyone contributes at their own levels to the conservation, protection and restoration of the integrity of the Earth's ecosystem.</p>	<p>Colombo Declaration on Common Environment Programme (Preamble, paragraph 9)</p>	<p>Emphasizing the need to adopt measures, programmes, policies and standards for environment protection and natural resource management in the SAARC region.</p> <p>9. Reiterate the importance of harmonization of policies in relation to sound fishery management, increased collaboration among fisheries and shipping sectors of member countries and to address issues such as marine, pollution...</p>
	<p>"Thimphu Statement on Climate Change" (Preamble, paragraph xi)</p>	<p>Recalling the high priority attached by the Leaders of SAARC at successive Summits towards preserving and sustainably managing the rich, fragile and diverse ecosystems of South Asia;</p> <p>xi. Stress the imperative of conservation of bio-diversity and natural resources and monitoring of mountain ecology covering the mountains in the region;</p>
	<p>SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation on Environment - "Delhi Statement" (Preamble, paragraphs 1, 4, 5)</p>	<p>Recognizing that one of the mandates of SAARC is to promote and support the protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the South Asian region;</p> <p>1. The Ministers recognized the critical importance of effective planning and management of environmental protection systems, including environmental pollution, and conservation of aquatic and marine ecosystems.</p> <p>4. The Ministers noted the critical need to conserve, preserve, rehabilitate and protect the rich, varied and unique biodiversity of the South Asian region...</p> <p>5. ...They emphasized the need to give a new impetus to afforestation and the sustainable management of forests and its resources, including through community- based methods.</p>
	<p>SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment</p>	<p>... reaffirming the importance of concerted efforts in the protection and preservation of environment;</p> <p>Determined to promote closer cooperation among the Parties for the protection and preservation, management and enhancement of environment;</p>
<p>Article 3 – Integration and Sustainable Development Parties shall integrate the requirements of environmental protection into the planning and implementation of their policies and national and international activities, especially in order to promote the fight against climate change, the protection of oceans and the maintenance of biodiversity. They shall pursue sustainable development. To this end, they shall ensure the promotion of public support policies, patterns of production and consumption both sustainable and respectful of the environment.</p>	<p>"SAARC Environmental Action Plan" (Paragraph 6b, 6c)</p>	<p>6b. Development and updating of national environment action plans and implementation of plans and programmes both at the national and regional levels to address the main environmental concerns in the SAARC region.</p> <p>6c. Development of legal instruments, providing the legal basis for co-operative efforts to protect and preserve the environment and develop the region on a sustainable basis</p>
	<p>Colombo Declaration on Common Environment Programme (Preamble)</p>	<p>Reaffirming the commitment to the implementation of international and regional agreements for the protection of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources in the region,</p>
	<p>"Thimphu Statement on Climate Change" (Preamble, Paragraphs iv, v, x, xi, xii)</p>	<p>Emphasizing the overriding importance of socio-economic development and poverty eradication in our region, and convinced that reducing dependence on carbon in economic growth and promoting climate resilience will promote both development and poverty eradication in a sustainable manner;</p> <p>iv. Undertake advocacy and awareness programs on climate change, among others, to promote the use of green technology and best practices to promote low-carbon sustainable and inclusive development of the region;</p> <p>v. Commission a study to explore the feasibility of establishing a SAARC mechanism which would provide capital for projects that promote low-carbon technology and renewable energy; and a Low-carbon Research and Development Institute in South Asian University;</p>

		<p>x. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Marine Initiative to strengthen the understanding of shared oceans and water bodies in the region and the critical roles they play in sustainable living to be supported by the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Center;</p> <p>xi. Stress the imperative of conservation of bio-diversity and natural resources and monitoring of mountain ecology covering the mountains in the region;</p> <p>xii. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Mountain Initiative on mountain ecosystems, particularly glaciers and their contribution to sustainable development and livelihoods to be supported by SAARC Forestry Center;</p>
	<p>DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA: A Comprehensive Regional Framework For Action 2006-2015 (Part II paragraph 1) (Part IV (A) paragraph 1)</p>	<p>II. In determining appropriate actions to achieve the expected outcomes and strategic goals, the framework takes into account the following:</p> <p>1. To proactively pursue national and international agenda for poverty reduction and sustainable development.</p> <p>IV. A.1. Members States and regional organizations will integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into their sustainable development policy, planning and programming at all levels.</p>
	<p>SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation on Environment - "Delhi Statement" (paragraphs 5, 7, 8)</p>	<p>5. ...They emphasized the need to give a new impetus to afforestation and the sustainable management of forests and its resources, including through community- based methods.</p> <p>7. The Ministers underlined the need for afforestation and sustainable management of forests to be an integral part of any agreement on forestry that is concluded under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). They emphasized that the "REDD Plus" proposal before the UNFCCC is an appropriate basis for such an agreement.</p> <p>8. ...They stressed that sustainable development and adaptation to Climate Change remained the appropriate way to address the threat of climate change. They agreed that it was central, including through acceleration of the development process, to build up capacity in the region to cope with the extreme weather events and other adverse effects of climate change.</p>
	<p>SAARC Declaration on Climate Change</p>	<p>We, the Foreign Ministers of member states of SAARC, are deeply concerned that the adverse effects of climate change threaten human lives and livelihoods, sustainable development, and the very existence of many developing countries, particularly in South Asia. We believe that climate change is a phenomenon that impacts on the right to development and human security.</p> <p>...We believe that the best and most appropriate way to address the threats of climate change is to adopt an integrated approach to sustainable development....</p>
	<p>SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment</p>	<p>Recognizing the interest of the Parties to promote sustainable management of environment and natural resources;</p>
<p>Article 4 – Intergenerational Equity Intergenerational equity shall guide decisions that may have an impact on the environment. Present generations shall ensure that their decisions and actions</p>	<p>SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment</p>	<p>Taking into consideration the deep concerns of the Member States on the unabated degradation of the environment and the adverse impacts of climate change in the region and their shared interest in its conservation for the well-being of present and future generations;</p>

do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs		
<p>Article 5 – Prevention The necessary measures shall be taken to prevent environmental harm. The Parties have the duty to ensure that activities under their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environments of other Parties or in areas beyond the limits of their national jurisdiction. They shall take the necessary measures to ensure that an environmental impact assessment is conducted prior to any decision made to authorise or engage in a project, an activity, a plan, or a program that is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. In particular, States shall keep under surveillance the effect of an above-mentioned project, activity, plan, or program which they authorise or engage in, in view of their obligation of due diligence.</p>	<p>"SAARC Environmental Action Plan" (Paragraph 6a and 7)</p> <p>Colombo Declaration on Common Environment Programme (Paragraph 10)</p> <p>"Thimphu Statement on Climate Change" (Preamble)</p>	<p>6.a. Assessment of the environment in order to assist the governments of Member States in decision making to cope properly with environmental problems particularly those concerning natural disasters and climate change.</p> <p>7. Environmental assessment is one of the basic activities which will support the prudent management of the environment and will facilitate the implementation of the other components of the Action Plan. A SAARC State of the Environment Report will be prepared by the end of 1999. The format for the Report is to be indicated by the SAARC Secretariat. To provide the necessary information for the Report, each member state will produce a national state of the environment report by the end of 1998.</p> <p>10. Decide to enhance regional cooperation to address problems related to the transboundary movement of hazardous waste including exchange of information and harmonisation of policies and procedures</p> <p>Mindful that while South Asia's contribution to climate change is minimal, the impacts of this global phenomenon transcends national boundaries;</p>
<p>Article 6 – Precaution Where there is a risk of serious or irreversible damage, lack of scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing the adoption of effective and proportionate measures to prevent environmental degradation.</p>		
<p>Article 7 – Environmental Damages The necessary measures shall be taken to ensure an adequate remediation of environmental damages. Parties shall</p>	<p>DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA: A Comprehensive Regional Framework For Action 2006-2015</p> <p>(Part III, paragraph 2.4)</p>	<p>III. 2.4. Develop and standardize Damage, Loss and Impact Assessment Methodologies and Relief Management Procedure;</p>

<p>immediately notify other States of any natural disasters or other emergencies that are likely to produce sudden harmful effects on the environment of those States. Parties shall promptly cooperate to help concerned States.</p>		
<p>Article 8 – Polluter Pays Parties shall ensure that prevention, mitigation and remediation costs for pollution, and other environmental disruptions and degradation are, to the greatest possible extent, borne by their originator.</p>	<p>“Thimphu Statement on Climate Change” (Preamble)</p> <p>Dhaka Declaration and SAARC Plan on Climate Change</p> <p>SAARC Declaration on Climate Change</p>	<p>Mindful that while South Asia’s contribution to climate change is minimal, the impacts of this global phenomenon transcends national boundaries;</p> <p>It also calls upon the Annex-I countries to fulfill their commitments as per the UNFCCC for providing additional resources.</p> <p>SAARC believes that the way forward must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Binding GHG emission reduction commitments by developed countries with effective timeframes. - Equitable burden-sharing.
<p>Article 9 – Access to Information Every person, without being required to state an interest, has a right of access to environmental information held by public authorities. Public authorities shall, within the framework of their national legislations, collect and make available to the public relevant environmental information.</p>	<p>DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA: A Comprehensive Regional Framework For Action 2006-2015</p> <p>(Part II (B) paragraph 6)</p>	<p>II. B. Expected Outcome-</p> <p>6. Enhanced information, warning and reporting systems within governments at all levels.</p>
<p>Article 10 – Public Participation Every person has the right to participate, at an appropriate stage and while options are still open, to the preparation of decisions, measures, plans, programmes, activities, policies and normative instruments of public authorities that may have a significant effect on the environment.</p>	<p>“SAARC Environmental Action Plan” (Paragraph 6d)</p> <p>Dhaka Declaration and SAARC Plan on Climate Change</p> <p>DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA: A Comprehensive Regional Framework For Action 2006-2015</p> <p>(Part III paragraph 6)</p>	<p>6d. Increasing people's sensitivity to and involvement in, finding solutions for environmental problems in the region through awareness and educational programmes.</p> <p>The Dhaka Declaration requires Member States to undertake activities to promote advocacy programs...on climate change</p> <p>III. In determining appropriate actions to achieve the expected outcomes and strategic goals, the framework takes into account the following:</p> <p>6. To develop policy and operational frameworks for sustainable coordination, collaboration and information management across governments, and with key stakeholders.</p>

	SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation on Environment - "Delhi Statement" (paragraph 5)	5. They emphasized the need to give a new impetus to afforestation and the sustainable management of forests and its resources, including through community-based methods.
<p>Article 11 – Access to Environmental Justice Parties shall ensure the right of effective and affordable access to administrative and judicial procedures, including redress and remedies, to challenge acts or omissions of public authorities or private persons which contravene environmental law, taking into consideration the provisions of the present Pact.</p>		
<p>Article 12 – Education and Training The Parties shall ensure that environmental education, to the greatest possible extent, is taught to members of the younger generation as well as to adults, in order to inspire in everyone a responsible conduct in protecting and improving the environment. The Parties shall ensure the protection of freedom of expression and information in environmental matters. They support the dissemination by mass media of information of an educational nature on ecosystems and on the need to protect and preserve the environment.</p>	<p>"SAARC Environmental Action Plan" (Paragraph 6d)</p> <p>Colombo Declaration on Common Environment Programme (Preamble, paragraph 5)</p> <p>Dhaka Declaration and SAARC Plan on Climate Change Dhaka Declaration and SAARC Plan on Climate Change</p> <p>"Thimphu Statement on Climate Change" (Principle vi)</p> <p>DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA: A Comprehensive Regional Framework For Action 2006-2015 (Part III, paragraph 4)</p>	<p>6d. Increasing people's sensitivity to and involvement in, finding solutions for environmental problems in the region through awareness and educational programmes.</p> <p>Mindful that the majority of our people are directly dependent on natural resources and accelerated economic growth, population control, education and awareness are fundamental to reducing the pressure on natural resources,</p> <p>5. Promote awareness for disaster prevention and preparedness.</p> <p>The Dhaka Declaration requires Member States to undertake activities to promote advocacy programs and mass awareness on climate change</p> <p>The SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change (2009-2011) identifies seven thematic areas of cooperation covering adaptation; mitigation; technology transfer; finance and investment; education and awareness</p> <p>The Action Plan lists the areas of ... exchange of information on disaster preparedness and extreme events; exchange of meteorological data; capacity building and exchange of information on climate change impacts (e.g. sea level rise, glacial melting, biodiversity and forestry)</p> <p>vi. Incorporate science-based materials in educational curricula to promote better understanding of the science and adverse effects of climate change;</p> <p>III. 4. Develop and implement Disaster Management training, education, research and awareness programmes which will include the following: a. Conduct training need assessment; b. Develop strategies for HRD; c. Develop training modules for various stakeholders; d. Standardize training curriculum; e. Mainstream disaster risk reduction in education curriculum at all levels; f. Exchange trainers and experts; g. Conduct research, documentation and publication; h. Compile best practices and indigenous knowledge; i. Develop indicators for measuring the impact of training</p>

<p>Article 13 – Research and Innovation The Parties shall promote, to the best of their ability, the improvement of scientific knowledge of ecosystems and the impact of human activities. They shall cooperate through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge and by enhancing the development, adaptation, dissemination and transfer of technologies respectful of the environment, including innovative technologies.</p>	<p>"SAARC Environmental Action Plan" (Paragraphs 9, 10, 12, 13)</p>	<p>9. Some of the SAARC countries are particularly vulnerable to' global climate change and the projected sea level rise. Vulnerable nations would continue to monitor, survey and collect data on climate change and sea level rise. Member states would record and share meteorological and oceanographic data for their common benefits.</p> <p>10. Member States reiterate the need to assess the impact of climate change on the region on a regular basis and to disseminate this information and examine the possibility of establishing a group of eminent scientists and experts to undertake this task.</p> <p>12. There is an urgent need to strengthen the mechanisms for sharing experience, information and resources on disaster preparedness, mitigation and management. In this regard, the Technical Committee on Environment and Meteorology should conduct a workshop to examine the mechanisms for sharing information on disaster preparedness and mitigation.</p> <p>13. Governments would designate national nodal points on water resources management to facilitate networking for exchange of information, scientific data and appropriate technologies. They would also share this information, data and technologies within mutually agreed frameworks of co-operation.</p>
	<p>Colombo Declaration on Common Environment Programme (Preamble), paragraphs 3, 4, 6, 8)</p>	<p>Expressing concern at the lack of progress made since the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in providing new and additional resources and technologies by industrialized countries,...</p> <p>Noting the importance of enhanced regional cooperation for sharing of information and networking in the SAARC region on environment matters, strategies and technologies to promote effective management of the environment for the benefit of all member countries,</p> <p>3. Decide that the Technical Committee on Environment and Meteorology consider the compilation of a regional directory of science and technological institutions in the field of the environment and a State of the Art Report on eco-friendly technologies.</p> <p>4. Agree to exchange information and share experiences to promote activities in the use of new technology, to improve the understanding of the nature and extent of the potential threats related to climate change and the provision of timely warning on the regional and local climate systems and their impacts.</p> <p>6. Decide to enhance regional cooperation for the exchange of information and technology on urban environment management with particular attention to air, water and noise pollution, and waste management.</p> <p>8. Agree to enhance cooperation for the promotion of forestry management in the region for multiple uses including increased research and development and training.</p>
	<p>"Thimphu Statement on Climate Change" (Preamble, paragraphs iv, v, vi, ix, xii, xiii, xiv)</p>	<p>Determined that South Asia should become a world leader in low-carbon technologies and renewable energy;</p> <p>Convinced that South Asia could benefit from cooperative regional initiatives and approaches, exchange of experiences, knowledge, transfer of technology, best practices to address the challenges posed by climate change;</p> <p>iv. Undertake advocacy and awareness programs on climate change, among others, to promote the use of green technology and best practices to promote low-carbon sustainable and inclusive development of the</p>

		<p>region;</p> <p>v. Commission a study to explore the feasibility of establishing a SAARC mechanism which would provide capital for projects that promote low-carbon technology and renewable energy; and a Low-carbon Research and Development Institute in South Asian University;</p> <p>vi. Incorporate science-based materials in educational curricula to promote better understanding of the science and adverse effects of climate change;</p> <p>ix. Establish institutional linkages among national institutions in the region to, among others, facilitate sharing of knowledge, information and capacity building programmes in climate change related areas;</p> <p>xii. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Mountain Initiative on mountain ecosystems, particularly glaciers and their contribution to sustainable development and livelihoods to be supported by SAARC Forestry Center;</p> <p>xiii. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Monsoon Initiative on the evolving pattern of monsoons to assess vulnerability due to climate change to be supported by SAARC Meteorological Research Center;</p> <p>xiv. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Climate-related Disasters Initiative on the integration of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to be supported by SAARC Disaster Management Center;</p>
	<p>Dhaka Declaration and SAARC Plan on Climate Change</p>	<p>The Dhaka Declaration requires Member States to undertake activities to promote ...mass awareness on climate change; ... and exchange of information of best practices, sharing of the results of research and development for mitigating the effects of climate change and ...for enhancing south-south cooperation on technology development and transfer, as per established SAARC norms...</p> <p>The SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change (2009-2011) identifies seven thematic areas of cooperation covering ... technology transfer... education and awareness....</p> <p>The Action Plan lists the areas of ... exchange of information on disaster preparedness and extreme events; exchange of meteorological data; ... and exchange of information on climate change impacts (e.g. sea level rise, glacial melting, biodiversity and forestry);... as the Priority Action Plan.</p>
	<p>DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA: A Comprehensive Regional Framework For Action 2006-2015</p> <p>(Part II (A) paragraph 5) (Part II paragraph 3)</p>	<p>II. A. The Framework provides a platform for South Asian countries to:</p> <p>5. Establish a regional system of exchanging information on prevention, preparedness and management of natural disasters;</p> <p>II. 3. Establish a Regional Information Sharing and Develop Network of Institutions and Organizations including, but not limited to, the followings: c. Geo-information technologies; d. Research information database</p>

	<p>SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation on Environment - "Delhi Statement" (paragraphs 4, 12, 15)</p>	<p>4. ... They noted the need for biodiversity protection and regulation, including through scientific methods.</p> <p>12. The Ministers also noted the importance of the High Level Conference on Technology Development and Transfer organized by the Government of India in cooperation with UNDESA and expressed hope that this will be an important contribution to the agreed outcomes at Copenhagen.</p> <p>15. The Ministers further agreed on a series of cross-cutting measures for mutual cooperation between Member States across areas of the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and create opportunities for activities achievable through regional cooperation and south-south support in terms of technology and knowledge transfer; • Agree to continued sharing of experience within SAARC for development of common approach to the environmental challenges; through workshops, seminars, conferences and expositions, training programmes and to foster the regional cooperation on priority environmental issues;
<p>Article 14 – Role of Non-State Actors and Subnational Entities The Parties shall take the necessary measures to encourage the implementation [of this Pact] by non-State actors and subnational entities, including civil society, economic actors, cities and regions taking into account their vital role in the protection of the environment.</p>	<p>"SAARC Environmental Action Plan" (Paragraphs 6d, 11, 13, 15, 16)</p>	<p>SAARC believes that the way forward must include: - Effective access to and funding assistance for the transfer of environment-friendly technologies and for adaptation.</p> <p>6d. Increasing people's sensitivity to and involvement in, finding solutions for environmental problems in the region through awareness and educational programmes.</p> <p>11. Concerned Member States reaffirm their commitment to actively participate in the ongoing work of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) focused on regeneration of degraded watersheds and conservation of the Himalayan ecosystem.</p> <p>13. Governments would designate national nodal points on water resources management to facilitate networking for exchange of information, scientific data and appropriate technologies. They would also share this information, data and technologies within mutually agreed frameworks of co-operation.</p> <p>15. Member States agreed on the need for establishing a SAARC Forestry Centre that would have a coordinating role in exchange of information, expertise, training programmes and monitoring in the fields of forestry. The SAARC Secretariat should identify the existing institutions in this field and consult Member Countries regarding the modalities for the operation of such a Centre.</p> <p>16. Member States also agreed on the necessity for the establishment of a SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre. The Government of Maldives offered to undertake the feasibility study for such a Centre.</p>
	<p>Colombo Declaration on Common Environment Programme (Paragraph 9)</p>	<p>9. Reiterate the importance of harmonization of policies in relation to sound fishery management, increased collaboration among fisheries and shipping sectors of member countries and to address issues such as marine, pollution. In this regard, member countries agreed to explore the feasibility of setting up a coastal zone management centre.</p>
	<p>"Thimphu Statement on Climate Change" (Preamble) Paragraphs ii, v, ix, x, xii, xiii, xiv</p>	<p>Recognizing that effective responses, both on mitigation and adaptation should be formulated and implemented at regional and international levels;</p> <p>Noting that South Asia is particularly prone to climate change and related disasters making the need for a regional response to meet the challenge of climate change more urgent and compelling; Welcoming the adoption of Climate Change as the theme of the Sixteenth SAARC Summit as an important initiative to galvanize and consolidate regional endeavours with the objective of making South Asia climate change resilient; Also Welcoming the signing of the SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment as a significant step towards promoting and strengthening regional cooperation;</p>

		<p>Convinced that South Asia could benefit from cooperative regional initiatives and approaches, exchange of experiences, knowledge, transfer of technology, best practices to address the challenges posed by climate change;</p> <p>Determined to address the adverse effects of climate change in accordance with the purposes and principles of regional cooperation enshrined in the SAARC Charter;</p> <p>ii. Agree to establish an Inter-governmental Expert Group on Climate Change to develop clear policy direction and guidance for regional cooperation as envisaged in the SAARC Plan of Action on Climate Change;</p> <p>v. Commission a study to explore the feasibility of establishing a SAARC mechanism which would provide capital for projects that promote low-carbon technology and renewable energy; and a Low-carbon Research and Development Institute in South Asian University;</p> <p>ix. Establish institutional linkages among national institutions in the region to, among others, facilitate sharing of knowledge, information and capacity building programmes in climate change related areas;</p> <p>x. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Marine Initiative to strengthen the understanding of shared oceans and water bodies in the region and the critical roles they play in sustainable living to be supported by the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Center;</p> <p>xii. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Mountain Initiative on mountain ecosystems, particularly glaciers and their contribution to sustainable development and livelihoods to be supported by SAARC Forestry Center;</p> <p>xiii. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Monsoon Initiative on the evolving pattern of monsoons to assess vulnerability due to climate change to be supported by SAARC Meteorological Research Center;</p> <p>xiv. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Climate-related Disasters Initiative on the integration of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to be supported by SAARC Disaster Management Center;</p>
	<p>DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA: A Comprehensive Regional Framework For Action 2006-2015 (Part II, paragraph 7) (Part IV (A) paragraph 1)</p>	<p>II. 7. To establish partnerships of government agencies with civil society, private sector and other stakeholders for effective and sustainable service delivery.</p> <p>IV.A.1. The implementation of and follow-up to the strategic goals and priorities for action should be addressed by different stakeholders in a multi-sectoral approach, including the development sector...Civil society, including volunteers and community-based organizations, the scientific community and the private sector are vital stakeholders in supporting the implementation of disaster risk reduction at all levels.</p>
	<p>SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation on Environment - "Delhi Statement" (paragraph 15)</p>	<p>15. The Ministers further agreed on a series of cross-cutting measures for mutual cooperation between Member States across areas of the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange Students and Faculty between Universities and Research Institutions of Member States.

<p>Article 15 – Effectiveness of Environmental Norms The Parties have the duty to adopt effective environmental laws, and to ensure their effective and fair implementation and enforcement.</p>	<p>"SAARC Environmental Action Plan" (Paragraph 6c, 8, 17)</p>	<p>6c. Development of legal instruments, providing the legal basis for co-operative efforts to protect and preserve the environment and develop the region on a sustainable basis</p> <p>8. Harmonization of environmental standards is essential for management of the environment and particularly for pollution control in the regional context. To initiate this process, Governments will submit to the Secretariat information about existing environmental standards in their countries. To facilitate this process, it is requested that the SAARC Technical Committee on Environment and Meteorology take up this issue and submit to the Secretariat a format for submission of information.</p> <p>17. Recognizing the importance of sound environmental protection in the region, the Member States agreed to study the feasibility of a Regional Treaty on Environment in the context of existing international conventions. The SAARC Secretary-General was requested to liaise with the Member Countries for further necessary action in this regard.</p>
	<p>Colombo Declaration on Common Environment Programme (Preamble, paragraphs 1, 7)</p>	<p>Reaffirming the commitment to the implementation of international and regional agreements for the protection of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources in the region,</p> <p>Emphasizing the need to adopt measures, programmes, policies and standards for environment protection and natural resource management in the SAARC region.</p> <p>1. Decide to take further measures to expedite the implementation of the SAARC Action Plan on the Environment adopted in Male in 1997.</p> <p>7. Decide to enhance regional cooperation including exchange of information in regard to adopting regional frameworks for protecting the genetic resources from being exploited without adequate compensation to those owning the resource. In this regard, member countries agree to exchange information on the legal measures required to protect genetic resources.</p>
	<p>"Thimphu Statement on Climate Change" (Preamble) Paragraphs I, xv, xvi</p>	<p>Also Welcoming the signing of the SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment as a significant step towards promoting and strengthening regional cooperation;</p> <p>i. Review the implementation of the Dhaka Declaration and SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change and ensure its timely implementation;</p> <p>xv. Complete the ratification process for the SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment at an early date to enable its entry into force; and</p> <p>xvi. The Inter-governmental Expert Group on Climate Change shall meet at least twice a year to periodically monitor and review the implementation of this Statement and make recommendations to facilitate its implementation and submit its report through the Senior Officials of SAARC to the SAARC Environment Ministers.</p>
	<p>Dhaka Declaration and SAARC Plan on Climate Change</p>	<p>The Dhaka Declaration requires Member States to ... initiate and implement programmes and measures as per SAARC practice for adaptation for dealing with the onslaught of climate change to protect the lives and livelihood of the people.</p>

	SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation on Environment - "Delhi Statement" (paragraph 15)	<p>15. The Ministers further agreed on a series of cross-cutting measures for mutual cooperation between Member States across areas of the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen mechanisms at policy, practice and implementation level to take better account of the indirect, induced, cross-sectoral and cross-boundary impacts, based on best practices available in the SAARC region and beyond;
	SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment	<p>Also recalling the Thirteenth SAARC Summit Declaration to consider modalities for having a Regional Environment Treaty in furthering environmental cooperation among the SAARC Member States...</p>
	SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response on to Natural Disasters	<p>Convinced that the regional cooperation on disaster response should be institutionalized through an Agreement among the Member States;</p>
<p>Article 16 – Resilience The Parties shall take necessary measures to maintain and restore the diversity and capacity of ecosystems and human communities to withstand environmental disruptions and degradation and to recover and adapt.</p>	"SAARC Environmental Action Plan" (Paragraph 11)	<p>11. Concerned Member States reaffirm their commitment to actively participate in the ongoing work of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) focused on regeneration of degraded watersheds and conservation of the Himalayan ecosystem.</p>
	Colombo Declaration on Common Environment Programme (Preamble)	<p>...the countries in the region have taken initiatives for the protection and preservation of the environment while meeting the development needs of the people,</p>
	"Thimphu Statement on Climate Change" (Preamble) Paragraphs iii, xi, xii, xiv	<p>Recalling the high priority attached by the Leaders of SAARC at successive Summits towards preserving and sustainably managing the rich, fragile and diverse ecosystems of South Asia;</p> <p>Recognizing that effective responses, both on mitigation and adaptation should be formulated and implemented at regional and international levels;</p> <p>Emphasizing the overriding importance of socio-economic development and poverty eradication in our region, and convinced that reducing dependence on carbon in economic growth and promoting climate resilience will promote both development and poverty eradication in a sustainable manner;</p> <p>Determined that South Asia should become a world leader in low-carbon technologies and renewable energy;</p> <p>Welcoming the adoption of Climate Change as the theme of the Sixteenth SAARC Summit as an important initiative to galvanize and consolidate regional endeavours with the objective of making South Asia climate change resilient;</p> <p>Aware that preservation of environment and mitigating the impacts of climate change are mutually reinforcing;</p> <p>iii. Direct the Secretary General to commission a study for presentation to the Seventeenth SAARC Summit on 'Climate Risks in the Region: ways to comprehensively address the related social, economic and environmental challenges';</p> <p>xii. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Mountain Initiative on mountain ecosystems, particularly glaciers and their contribution to sustainable development and livelihoods to be supported by SAARC Forestry Center;</p> <p>xiii. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Monsoon Initiative on the evolving pattern of monsoons to</p>

		<p>assess vulnerability due to climate change to be supported by SAARC Meteorological Research Center;</p> <p>xiv. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Climate-related Disasters Initiative on the integration of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to be supported by SAARC Disaster Management Center;</p>
	Dhaka Declaration and SAARC Plan on Climate Change	<p>The Fourteenth SAARC Summit (New Delhi, 3-4 April 2007) expressed "deep concern" over the global climate change and called for pursuing a climate resilient development in South Asia.</p> <p>During the Twenty-ninth session of the SAARC Council of Ministers (New Delhi, 7-8 December 2007), the Council felt that given the vulnerabilities, inadequate means and limited capacities, there was a need to ensure rapid social and economic development to make SAARC climate change resilient.</p>
	SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation on Environment - "Delhi Statement" (paras 1, 6, 16, 17)	<p>1. The Ministers recognized the critical importance of effective planning and management of environmental protection systems, including environmental pollution, and conservation of aquatic and marine ecosystems.</p> <p>6. The Ministers emphasized the need to identify transboundary biodiversity zones and develop a framework for transboundary biodiversity conservation, including exploration of potential biodiversity conservation corridors.</p> <p>16. The Ministers took note of the Draft SAARC Treaty on Cooperation in the field of Environment, and directed that an Inter-governmental Expert Group Meeting be convened at an early date to discuss and finalize the draft Treaty for signature at the forthcoming Sixteenth SAARC Summit.</p> <p>17. The Ministers directed that the draft SAARC Agreement on Natural Disaster Rapid Response Mechanism be finalized for signing at the Sixteenth SAARC Summit at Thimphu, Bhutan, in April 2010.</p>
	SAARC Declaration on Climate Change	<p>...Given our vulnerabilities, inadequate means and limited capacities, we need to ensure rapid social and economic development in our region to make SAARC climate change resilient. Development provides the best form of adaptation....</p> <p>SAARC believes that the way forward must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate resources to tackle climate change without detracting from development funds.
	SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment	<p>... while expressing deep concern at the continuing degradation of environment and reaffirming the importance of concerted efforts in the protection and preservation of environment;</p> <p>Taking into consideration the deep concerns of the Member States on the unabated degradation of the environment and the adverse impacts of climate change in the region and their shared interest in its conservation for the well-being of present and future generations;</p>
Article 17 – Non-regression The Parties and their sub-national entities refrain from allowing activities or adopting norms that have the effect of reducing the global level of environmental protection guaranteed by current law.		

<p>Article 18 – Cooperation In order to conserve, protect and restore the integrity of the Earth’s ecosystem and community of life, Parties shall cooperate in good faith and in a spirit of global partnership for the implementation of the provisions of the present Pact.</p>	<p>"SAARC Environmental Action Plan" (Paragraphs 8, 14)</p>	<p>8. Harmonization of environmental standards is essential for management of the environment and particularly for pollution control in the regional context. To initiate this process, Governments will submit to the Secretariat information about existing environmental standards in their countries. To facilitate this process, it is requested that the SAARC Technical Committee on Environment and Meteorology take up this issue and submit to the Secretariat a format for submission of information.</p> <p>14. Concerned Member States will provide support in monitoring variability and change of climate and sea level rise; in assessing the impacts of climate- change; and support national efforts aimed at developing strategies and measures on adaptation to climate change through sharing of expertise and training.</p>
	<p>Colombo Declaration on Common Environment Programme (Preamble, Paragraphs 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)</p>	<p>Reaffirming the commitment to the implementation of international and regional agreements for the protection of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources in the region,</p> <p>Recognizing the need for collaborative action and the importance of enhanced regional cooperation to address common and trans-boundary environmental problems.</p> <p>Noting the importance of enhanced regional cooperation for sharing of information and networking in the SAARC region on environment matters, strategies and technologies to promote effective management of the environment for the benefit of all member countries,</p> <p>6. Decide to enhance regional cooperation for the exchange of information and technology on urban environment management with particular attention to air, water and noise pollution, and waste management.</p> <p>7. Decide to enhance regional cooperation including exchange of information in regard to adopting regional frameworks for protecting the genetic resources from being exploited without adequate compensation to those owning the resource. In this regard, member countries agree to exchange information on the legal measures required to protect genetic resources.</p> <p>8. Agree to enhance cooperation for the promotion of forestry management in the region for multiple uses including increased research and development and training.</p> <p>9. Reiterate the importance of harmonization of policies in relation to sound fishery management, increased collaboration among fisheries and shipping sectors of member countries and to address issues such as marine, pollution...</p> <p>10. Decide to enhance regional cooperation to address problems related to the transboundary movement of hazardous waste including exchange of information and harmonisation of policies and procedures</p>
	<p>"Thimphu Statement on Climate Change" (Preamble) Paragraphs ii, vii, ix, x, xi, xii, xiii, xiv</p>	<p>Recognizing that effective responses, both on mitigation and adaptation should be formulated and implemented at regional and international levels;</p> <p>Also Welcoming the signing of the SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment as a significant step towards promoting and strengthening regional cooperation;</p> <p>Convinced that South Asia could benefit from cooperative regional initiatives and approaches, exchange of experiences, knowledge, transfer of technology, best practices to address the challenges posed by climate change;</p>

		<p>Determined to address the adverse effects of climate change in accordance with the purposes and principles of regional cooperation enshrined in the SAARC Charter;</p> <p>ii. Agree to establish an Inter-governmental Expert Group on Climate Change to develop clear policy direction and guidance for regional cooperation as envisaged in the SAARC Plan of Action on Climate Change;</p> <p>vii. Plant ten million trees over the next five years (2010-2015) as part of a regional afforestation and reforestation campaign...</p> <p>ix. Establish institutional linkages among national institutions in the region to, among others, facilitate sharing of knowledge, information and capacity building programmes in climate change related areas;</p> <p>x. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Marine Initiative to strengthen the understanding of shared oceans and water bodies in the region and the critical roles they play in sustainable living to be supported by the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Center;</p> <p>xi. Stress the imperative of conservation of bio-diversity and natural resources and monitoring of mountain ecology covering the mountains in the region;</p> <p>xii. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Mountain Initiative on mountain ecosystems, particularly glaciers and their contribution to sustainable development and livelihoods to be supported by SAARC Forestry Center;</p> <p>xiii. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Monsoon Initiative on the evolving pattern of monsoons to assess vulnerability due to climate change to be supported by SAARC Meteorological Research Center;</p> <p>xiv. Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Climate-related Disasters Initiative on the integration of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to be supported by SAARC Disaster Management Center;</p>
	<p>Dhaka Declaration and SAARC Plan on Climate Change</p>	<p>The Dhaka Declaration requires Member States to undertakecooperation in capacity building including the development of CDM projects and DNA and on incentives for removal of GHG by sinks,... and for enhancing south-south cooperation on technology development and transfer, as per established SAARC norms;</p> <p>The Action Plan lists the areas of ...mutual consultation in international negotiation process as the Priority Action Plan.</p>
	<p>DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA: A Comprehensive Regional Framework For Action 2006-2015 (Part II paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 Part IV (A) paragraph 2)</p>	<p>II. The Framework provides a platform for South Asian countries to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish and strengthen the regional disaster management system to reduce risks and to improve response and recovery management at all levels; 2. Identify and elaborate country and regional priorities for action; 4. Establish a regional system to develop and implement regional programmes and projects for early warning; 5. Establish a regional system of exchanging information on prevention, preparedness and management of natural disasters; 6. Create a regional response mechanism dedicated to disaster preparedness, emergency relief and rehabilitation to ensure immediate response; and

		<p>7. Create a regional mechanism to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of achievements towards goals and strategies.</p> <p>IV. A. 2. While each Member State has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, an enabling regional environment is vital to stimulate and contribute to developing the knowledge, capacities and motivation needed to build disaster resilient nations and communities.</p>
	<p>SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation on Environment - "Delhi Statement" (Preamble, paras 1, 2, 3, 11, 13, 14, 15)</p>	<p>Convinced that SAARC could benefit from exchange of the accumulated positive experience, strengthened regional dialogue and adopting a collaborative regional approach to tackling common environmental problems;</p> <p>Emphasizing that SAARC can play an important role in carrying out collective action to address these challenges for mutual benefit and the common good;</p> <p>Underscoring the need to substantively enhance regional cooperation as per SAARC principles on matters related to the environment;</p> <p>1. ... They emphasized the need for cooperation in devising measures to develop capability for enhanced environmental management.</p> <p>2. The Ministers ... reaffirmed the decision of SMRC to set up a network of SAARC weather stations to monitor weather patterns, especially storms, across the Member States, starting with the establishment of fifty automatic weather stations, three GPS Sonde Stations and a Doppler Radar...</p> <p>3. The Ministers agreed to accelerate consultations between the apex environmental management and pollution control agencies of the Member States ("apex group"), and directed that they develop a Regional Cooperation Plan on environmental management and pollution control within a period of six months from the date of adoption of this statement.</p> <p>11. The Ministers underlined the crucial importance of close cooperation in the run-up to the UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP-15) in Copenhagen, with a view to enabling the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)....</p> <p>13. The Ministers recommended that Member States may undertake cooperation with respect to adaptation, supported with resources as mutually agreed, to address the adverse effects of climate change.</p> <p>14. In particular, the Ministers underscored the need to undertake and enhance cooperation in areas related to environment amongst the Member States in order to have a coordinated response to climate change....</p> <p>15. The Ministers further agreed on a series of cross-cutting measures for mutual cooperation between Member States across areas of the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen mechanisms at policy, practice and implementation level to take better account of the indirect, induced, cross-sectoral and cross-boundary impacts, based on best practices available in the SAARC region and beyond; • Identify and create opportunities for activities achievable through regional cooperation and south-south support in terms of technology and knowledge transfer; • Agree to continued sharing of experience within SAARC for development of common approach to

		<p>the environmental challenges; through workshops, seminars, conferences and expositions, training programmes and to foster the regional cooperation on priority environmental issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange Students and Faculty between Universities and Research Institutions of Member States.
	SAARC Declaration on Climate Change	We believe that climate change is a global challenge. There is still an opportunity for mankind to address this challenge. The SAARC member states are determined to contribute to this global effort...
	SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment	<p>Also recalling the Thirteenth SAARC Summit Declaration to consider modalities for having a Regional Environment Treaty in furthering environmental cooperation among the SAARC Member States</p> <p>Determined to promote closer cooperation among the Parties for the protection and preservation, management and enhancement of environment;</p>
	SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response on to Natural Disasters	Convinced that the regional cooperation on disaster response should be institutionalized through an Agreement among the Member States;
Article 19 – Armed Conflicts States shall take pursuant to their obligations under international law all feasible measures to protect the environment in relation to armed conflicts.		
Article 20 – Diversity of National Situations The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special attention. Account shall be taken, where appropriate, of the Parties' common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances.	<p>"SAARC Environmental Action Plan" (Paragraph 9)</p> <p>Colombo Declaration on Common Environment Programme (Preamble)</p> <p>"Thimphu Statement on Climate Change" (Preamble) Paragraph viii</p>	<p>9. Some of the SAARC countries are particularly vulnerable to' global climate change and the projected sea level rise. Vulnerable nations would continue to monitor, survey and collect data on climate change and sea level rise. Member states would record and share meteorological and oceanographic data for their common benefits.</p> <p>Expressing concern that nearly one fourth of the poor of the world live in the SAARC region and poverty is one of the major contributory factors to environmental degradation in the SAARC1 region,</p> <p>Emphasizing the need for an enabling international environment to support the efforts of the SAARC Countries for eradication of poverty, and, in this context, the need for the international community to increase their support and assistance for these efforts,</p> <p>Expressing concern at the lack of progress made since the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in providing new and additional resources and technologies by industrialized countries,</p> <p>Expressing deep concern about the adverse effects of climate change and its impact on the region, particularly on the lives and livelihoods of the 1.6 billion people of South Asia;</p> <p>Mindful that while South Asia's contribution to climate change is minimal...</p> <p>Also Mindful that the Member States of SAARC as developing countries face the dual challenge of addressing the negative impacts of climate change and pursuing socio-economic development;</p> <p>Emphasizing the overriding importance of socio-economic development and poverty eradication in our region...</p> <p>Reiterating the principles of equity, and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as enshrined in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to be the basis for an agreed outcome in the global negotiations on climate change;</p>

		<p>Noting that South Asia is particularly prone to climate change and related disasters making the need for a regional response to meet the challenge of climate change more urgent and compelling;</p> <p>vii. Plant ten million trees over the next five years (2010-2015) as part of a regional afforestation and reforestation campaign, in accordance with national priorities and programmes of Member States;</p> <p>viii. Evolve national plans...on protecting and safeguarding the archeological and historical infrastructure of South Asia from the adverse effects of Climate Change;</p>
	<p>DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA: A Comprehensive Regional Framework For Action 2006-2015 Part II (A) paragraphs 2 & 3 Part II (B) paragraphs 5, 8</p>	<p>II. A. The Framework provides a platform for South Asian countries to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Identify and elaborate country and regional priorities for action; 3. Share best practices and lessons learnt from disaster risk reduction efforts at national levels; <p>II. B. Expected Outcome</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Greater levels of coordination and cooperation at national, regional and international levels;
	<p>SAARC Ministerial Statement on Cooperation on Environment - "Delhi Statement" (paragraphs 8, 11)</p>	<p>8. The Ministers recognized that the South Asia was amongst the regions most vulnerable to climate change...</p> <p>11. ...They also underscored the need to fully implement the commitments under the Convention in accordance with its principles, especially that of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.</p>
	<p>SAARC Declaration on Climate Change</p>	<p>We, the Foreign Ministers of member states of SAARC, are deeply concerned that the adverse effects of climate change threaten human lives and livelihoods, sustainable development, and the very existence of many developing countries, particularly in South Asia. We believe that climate change is a phenomenon that impacts on the right to development and human security.</p> <p>The low-lying regions and long coastlines of SAARC face serious threats from sea-level rise. Our peoples are being adversely impacted, including massive displacement as a consequence of sea-level rise, river bank erosion, drought, severe storms and cyclones, and permanent inundation. The Himalayan regions also face the catastrophic consequences of accelerated glacier melt, including Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF).</p> <p>We believe that climate change is a global challenge. There is still an opportunity for mankind to address this challenge. The SAARC member states are determined to contribute to this global effort, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Given our vulnerabilities, inadequate means and limited capacities, we need to ensure rapid social and economic development in our region to make SAARC climate change resilient. Development provides the best form of adaptation. We also believe that developed countries must assume greater commitments in line with their responsibility.</p> <p>SAARC believes that the way forward must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding GHG emission reduction commitments by developed countries with effective timeframes. • Equitable burden-sharing.