

**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC)
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)**

1. With a view to strengthening cooperation and collaboration between the two Organizations in the service of their membership, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) agree to enter into this Agreement, which is concluded taking into account the following:

- Charter of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
- Terms of Reference of ESCAP

2. Accordingly, SAARC and ESCAP agree to:

- cooperate and collaborate, to the extent possible, on development issues and concerns of mutual interest;
- develop and implement, as appropriate, joint studies, workshops and seminars on mutually identified areas of priority concern;
- exchange analytical reports and technical publications on mutual economic and social development concerns;
- establish linkages through exchange of information, documentation and ideas between SAARC and ESCAP;

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- cooperate in providing relevant substantive information, data and analytical materials to their respective technical and thematic committees as indicated below:

SAARC	ESCAP
Agriculture	Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development
Environment	Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development
Health and population activities	-do-
Rural development	Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development
Women in Development	-do-
Science and Technology	Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation
Communications, Tourism and Transport	Committee on Transport and Communications

3. SAARC and ESCAP also agree to cooperate with each other, to the extent possible, through undertaking active collaboration in the following specific areas of mutual interest:



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- poverty alleviation, including macro-economic policies, institutional support and economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;
- human resources development;
- role of women in development;
- drug abuse demand reduction;
- trade policy, negotiations and trade promotion, including review and strengthening of existing regional cooperation arrangements such as the Asian Reinsurance Corporation, the Asian Clearing Union and the Bangkok Agreement;
- economic and social impact of privatization; and scope of privatization in services sector, including financial and infrastructural services;
- role of foreign direct investment in goods and services sector;
- Harmonization of investment incentives to attract foreign investment;
- enhancement of competitiveness of manufacturing sector through enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation;
- integration of environmental considerations into economic decision-making;
- promotion of environmental awareness;
- combating salinity, desertification and land degradation;

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- economic, social and technical aspects of sustainable agricultural development;
- land transport in infrastructure development and facilitation measures;
- subregional approaches to industrial development;
- development of financial and capital market institutions to improve mobilization of domestic resources.

4. SAARC and ESCAP will participate to the extent possible, in meetings of main organs and subsidiary bodies/committees, as resources permit.

5. To enable more effective and mutually beneficial cooperation, SAARC and ESCAP agree to undertake yearly consultations at senior professional level to identify and elaborate joint activities in mutually agreed fields whenever possible to do so.

6. This Agreement will enter into force upon signature of the Secretary-General of SAARC and the Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

South Asian Association for
Regional Cooperation



Y.K. Silwal
Secretary-General

Economic and Social Commission for
Asia and the Pacific



Rafeeuddin Ahmed
Executive Secretary

Bangkok, 4 February 1994