



The Prime Minister of Nepal

Message

On the happy occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), I extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to the peoples and Governments of BIMSTEC Member States.

BIMSTEC has reinvigorated the age-old cultural and civilizational links between South Asia and South East Asia and made significant strides towards enhancing meaningful cooperation among the Member States. With the signing of the Charter, adoption of the important legal instruments, and restructuring of sectors and sub-sectors of cooperation, the Fifth Summit reiterated an unequivocal message of collaboration and partnership for peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable Bay of Bengal region. A time-bound implementation of these instruments will certainly bring fresh momentum to the BIMSTEC process.

However, BIMSTEC is far from effectively addressing the challenges facing our region. The COVID-19 pandemic has added further strain to our countries which are already facing the endemics of poverty, unemployment, rising inequality, and climate crisis. With the severe fallouts of the pandemic on lives, livelihoods and economies, these challenges have only compounded.

In this context, the urgency to speed up regional cooperation has never been so critical and the need to translate our commitment into action never so compelling. There is no alternative to unity, solidarity, and cooperation. So, we must ensure that BIMSTEC is able to deliver on the regional aspirations of peace, development, and prosperity.

As a staunch supporter of regionalism, Nepal remains committed to contributing constructively towards reenergizing the BIMSTEC process. We are pleased to lead the people-to-people contact sector and look forward to engaging with other Member States and the Secretariat for building strong bonds at the level of the peoples.

On this historic day, let us rise to the responsibility and recommit to work together for the sake of our peoples, our countries, and our region!

Sher Bahadur Deuba
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Kathmandu, 6 June 2022