

Press Release

Fifteenth Governing Board Meeting of the SAARC Arbitration Council

The Fifteenth Governing Board Meeting of the SAARC Arbitration Council (SARCO) was held on 05-06 October 2026 in Malé, Maldives. Representatives from the esteemed Governments of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Royal Government of Bhutan, the Republic of Maldives and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan attended the meeting in person, while representatives from the Governments of Republic of India, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka participated virtually. The Meeting was also attended by the Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host country, Pakistan, and the SAARC Secretariat officials.

As the current Chairperson of Governing Board of SARCO, Mr. Karma Yeshey, Chief Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Royal Government of Bhutan, presided over the meeting.

Addressing the meeting on behalf of H.E. the SAARC Secretary General; Director, Mr. Waseem Shahzad highlighted the Council's vital role in promoting regional legal cooperation and economic integration. He emphasized the Governing Board's critical responsibility in guiding the Council's programme of activities, thus ensuring their full alignment with the Council's mandate and objectives.

The Chairperson of the Governing Board, Mr. Karma Yeshey, in his address, reaffirmed the mandate entrusted to the SAARC Arbitration Council and called upon the Member States for their continued cooperation in navigating this crucial process.

Mr. Choining Dorji, Director General of SARCO, presented the proposed budget for 2027 and briefed the Meeting on the programme activities undertaken during 2026. He also outlined the key challenges encountered and sought the Board's guidance and endorsement for the proposed programme activities for 2027.

The Meeting undertook a comprehensive review of the programme activities conducted over the past year alongside those proposed for the calendar year 2027. Furthermore, participants examined the audited reports prepared by the Joint Audit Team and Internal Audit Team, together with the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2027.

The two days of productive deliberations concluded successfully, yielding constructive recommendations that will be submitted to the upcoming Programming Committee for further consideration and approval. These recommendations are designed to reinforce the Council's initiatives and ensure the efficient execution of its mandates in the year ahead.

SAARC Arbitration Council
Malé, Maldives
06 October 2026