**SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS)**

1. At the Sixteenth SAARC Summit, the SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) was signed. The Leaders expressed the hope that this will open up new vistas of trade cooperation and further deepen the integration of the regional economies. The Leaders called for an early conclusion of negotiations on the schedules of specific commitments under the Agreement. The Agreement has been ratified by all Member States and has entered into force on 29 November 2012.
2. So far, eleven Meetings of the Expert Group on SATIS have been held. The Eleventh Meeting of the Expert Group held in Islamabad on 5 July 2015 noted that only Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal are ready with their Final Offer Lists and are ready for tabling of these Final Offers. Subsequently, Maldives and Sri Lanka also informed that they are also ready with their Final Offer Lists under SATIS. This confirmation is still awaited from Pakistan.
3. Once confirmation from all Member States has been received, these Lists would be forwarded to the SAARC Secretariat by all Member States for circulation among all Member States in one go. These Final Offer Lists would be examined by the Member States and subsequently tabled during the Twelfth Meeting of the Expert Group now to be held in New Delhi in 2017.
4. With the financial and technical assistance of ADB, a Study on Development of Institutional Framework for Data Collection on Trade in Services, including Capacity Building has been conducted as recommended by the Second Meeting of Heads of SAARC Statistical Organisations (Dhaka, 17 April 2008) and the Thirteenth Meeting of Committee on Economic Cooperation (Dhaka, 24-25 November 2007).