



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
BANGLADESH  
16 Boishakh 1424  
29 April 2017

## Message

On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the establishment of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-OPCW, I urge all to rid the world of chemical weapons.

On this day in 1997, the Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force making it a legally binding obligation to make the world free from the scourge of chemical weapons. It is a matter of satisfaction that 192 States have already ratified the Convention covering 98% of the global population and 94% of the world's declared stockpile of chemical agents have been destroyed. On this auspicious occasion, I call upon the remaining States that are not Parties to the Convention to consider acceding to it at the earliest.

Bangladesh, as an original signatory to the Convention, is firmly committed to the aspirations of the OPCW in making the world safer by eliminating the threat of chemical weapons both by destroying the stockpile and preventing re-emergence of such weapon in any form.

We hope that the OPCW would be able to ensure that chemistry is used exclusively for peaceful purposes, especially in response to the rapid advances in science and production technologies.

As the leading contributor to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations across the world, Bangladesh deeply values her sacrifice and contribution to world peace. Bangladesh's recent election to the post of Chairperson of the Executive Council (2017-2018) is a manifestation of global recognition for our unwavering support for the world peace.

We reaffirm our commitment to world peace and reiterate our utmost support for the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW towards achieving our common goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina