

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



**PRIME MINISTER**  
**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF**  
**BANGLADESH**

23 Jaistho 1430  
06 June 2023

## Message

I am delighted to convey my warm greetings to the Governments and the peoples of the Member States of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) on the happy occasion of the 26th BIMSTEC Day on June 6, 2023. I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the BIMSTEC Secretary General and officials of the Secretariat.


As one of the founding members of BIMSTEC, Bangladesh places great importance to the BIMSTEC process for the socio-economic development of the region through collective endeavours in a spirit of equality and partnership. The ongoing economic crisis due to the Ukraine war has taught us a harsh lesson and the importance of strong regional cooperation is felt more than ever before. We need to work together to face these challenges.

During the last 25 years of its existence, the organization has made some truly impressive strides. It is encouraging to see that over this period BIMSTEC has been able to create a number of crucial administrative and regulatory structures including having its Charter, which will certainly contribute to move the BIMSTEC process forward. As a founding member and as the host of the BIMSTEC Secretariat, I reiterate our commitment to take every step possible to further strengthen the BIMSTEC process and transform it into a results-driven organization. We extend our gratitude to all the BIMSTEC countries for their continued efforts and contributions in all areas of co-operation.

I strongly believe that the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit will lead to an even greater intensification of the BIMSTEC activities as Bangladesh takes the Chairmanship after the Summit. We need to quickly move forward in the sector of trade and investment. The progress we have already made in a number of crucial areas of cooperation including connectivity, agriculture, energy and technology is something I hope the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit can spur on.

Long Live the BIMSTEC Spirit.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.

  
**Sheikh Hasina**