

29 April 2014

**Message of H.E. John W. Ashe  
President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly,  
for Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare**

Today, April 29, we, the international community, observe the Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare. On this date in 1997, the Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force.

With our commemoration today we provide an opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm our commitment to eliminate the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting one of the core missions of the United Nations: the promotion of peace, security and stability worldwide.

Chemical weapons, like all weapons of mass destruction, have no place in our world. Although the Chemical Weapons Convention prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons, their threat still persists. We have to overcome remaining challenges to reach the Convention's full and universal implementation.

As President of the General Assembly, I call upon those who have not done so to sign and ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention, and upon all of us to uphold our responsibilities and eliminate the threat of chemical weapons.