

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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

23 Jaistha 1429

06 June 2022

## Message

I take this opportunity to extend my warmest felicitations to the Governments and the Peoples of the member states on the auspicious occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the BIMSTEC Forum. I also convey my heartiest greetings to the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC and the officials of the BIMSTEC Secretariat.

Bangladesh joined the BIMSTEC Forum in 1997 to transcend the spirit of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in achieving collective regional economic and social progress among the neighboring countries through the cooperation of brotherhood and fraternity. The legacy of our Father of the Nation in regional collaboration has since been one of the Foreign Policy priorities of Bangladesh. It is my profound pleasure to reiterate our commitment to the BIMSTEC process to uplift the standard of life of the people in the Bay of Bengal Region.

I fondly recollect my participation at the recently concluded 5th BIMSTEC Summit, my interaction with the esteemed BIMSTEC leaders, the signing of the much-coveted BIMSTEC charter, witnessing some legal instruments, and the adoption of the Colombo Declaration of the 5th BIMSTEC Summit. I firmly believe that these steps will provide much-needed impetus to the BIMSTEC process in its accelerated journey ahead. We need to work faster to implement our commitment to turn BIMSTEC into a result-oriented organization to achieve our collective goals. As a founding member and the host country of the BIMSTEC Secretariat, Bangladesh will do everything possible to strengthen the BIMSTEC process. We thank all BIMSTEC member countries for their concerted support and continuous engagements during the last 25 years.

On this auspicious occasion, I would urge the esteemed member states to leverage the BIMSTEC platform to tackle the multi-prong challenges and devastating impact of COVID-19 during the post-pandemic era. This forum also shall act together and stronger by forging partnerships and solidarity, especially in upholding stability in the economic frontiers and financial sectors, including foreign currency reserves, commodity prices, disaster management, and our overall development process by sharing our knowledge, expertise, best practices, and resources in the looming Global Crisis.

On this very auspicious occasion, I wish BIMSTEC Forum all success in its future endeavors.

**Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.**  
**Long live the BIMSTEC spirit.**

**Sheikh Hasina**