

What is it?

1997 treaty that prohibits developing, producing, acquiring, stockpiling, transferring and using chemical weapons (CW)

Administered by the **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons** (OPCW)

193 States Parties:
• **Israel** signed, not ratified
• **Egypt, North Korea, and South Sudan** neither signed nor ratified

Why is it important?

Requires States Parties to declare and destroy all CW, CW research and development facilities, CW production facilities, and old and abandoned CW in other states' territories

Defines CW as:

- **Toxic chemicals** and **precursors**—causing death, incapacitation, or permanent harm
- **Munitions** or **devices**—items designed to cause harm by releasing toxic chemicals
- **Equipment**—technology connected to the use of munitions or devices as CW

What should I know?

Verification regime permits:

- **Routine Inspections** to verify declarations
- **Challenge Inspections** to clarify and resolve questions of possible non-compliance
- **Investigations of Alleged Use of Chemical Weapons**

Since Entry-into-Force:

- Over **97%** of world's declared stockpiles **destroyed**
- Over **6,650 inspections** conducted
- **123** States Parties implemented legislation supporting CWC mandate

CWC
duration is
unlimited