**AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITY, ADO-EKITI**

**AN ASSIGNMENT ON PCS 408**

**The Chemical Weapons Convention or CWC which enter into force in April 1997 prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, or transfer of chemical weapons. In relation to this statement how effective is CWC in eliminating chemical weapons under universally applied international control?**

**BY**

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**16/SMS10/013**

**LECTURER- DR BADMUS ISIAKA**

**CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

The modern use of chemical weapons began with World War I, when both sides to the conflict used poisonous gas to inflict agonizing suffering and to cause significant battlefield casualties. Such weapons basically consisted of well known commercial chemicals put into standard munitions such as grenades and artillery shells.

After 12 years of negotiations, the [Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)](http://www.opcw.org/chemical-weapons-convention/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)was adopted by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on 3 September 1992. The CWC allows for the stringent verification of compliance by State Parties. The CWC opened for signature in Paris on 13 January 1993 and entered into force on 29 April 1997. The CWC is the first disarmament agreement negotiated within a multilateral framework that provides for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under universally applied international control.

In order to prepare for the entry-into-force of the CWC, a Preparatory Commission of [the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)](http://www.opcw.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) was established with the responsibility to prepare detailed operation procedures and to put into place the necessary infrastructure for the permanent implementing agency provided for in the Convention. Headquarters for this organization were established in The Hague, the Netherlands. The CWC entered into force on 29 April 1997, 180 days after deposit of the 65th instrument of ratification.

### Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

With the entry-into-force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) on 29 April 1997, the [Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)](http://www.opcw.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) was formally established.

The OPCW Technical Secretariat is located in The Hague, the Netherlands. Currently, 189 nations, representing about 98% of the global population, have joined the CWC. The OPCW mission is to implement the provisions of the CWC and to ensure a credible, transparent regime to verify the destruction of chemical weapons; to prevent their re-emergence in any member State; to provide protection and assistance against chemical weapons; to encourage international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry; and to achieve universal membership of the OPCW. The cooperation between the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is regulated by the [relationship agreement between both organisations](http://undocs.org/A/RES/55/283%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) adopted by the General Assembly in September 2001.