

## ROMANIA

### STATEMENT

by Dan Cutoiu, State Secretary, President of the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control, Head of the Romanian delegation to the 44th Session of the General Conference  
21 September 2000

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Romanian delegation, I am pleased to join the other delegates in congratulating you, Mr. President, and the other distinguished members of the Bureau on your election. Let me ensure you of the full cooperation of the Romanian delegation.

I would take this opportunity to welcome the delegations of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Central African Republic as their countries have recently become Member States of the Agency.

My delegation also wishes to associate itself to the statement of the distinguished representative of France on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,

I would like to ensure you that Romania remains committed to fulfill its obligations concerning the strengthening of IAEA safeguards. In our view the NPT is and must remain the basis of the global non-proliferation regime. In terms of verification, the last NPT Review Conference reaffirmed the importance of the safeguards activities carried out by the Agency and also its fundamental role in promoting nuclear non-proliferation worldwide. On July 7th, 2000, my country notified the IAEA Secretariat that the Romanian Parliament ratified the "Protocol between Romania and the IAEA Additional to the Agreement for the Application of Safeguards in connection to the NPT". Preparations to produce the reports and information required by Art. 3. Par. A of this Protocol are under way.

This year Romania was invited to join the Coordinated Technical Support Program for the Newly Independent States. As beneficiary of this Program, I am confident that Romania will be able to perform an efficient self-assessment of the National System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials. The performing of such a self-assessment will facilitate the implementation of the Additional Protocol.

As a result of the cooperation between the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control and the Romanian Police and with the support of police forces from other European countries, specific activities have been carried out in order to prevent and combat the theft and illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive materials. I take this opportunity to emphasize the IAEA permanent assistance in training the Romania specialists acting in this field and I would like to express my hope that the cooperation in this area will further continue with the same good results.

Mr. President,

Let me refer to some of the most important achievements related to the uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in my country in the last year.

The excellent results of the Cernavoda NPP Unit 1 - having an overall gross capacity factor of approximately 87% and low production costs -since its connection to the grid on December 2nd, 1996, confirm the fact that nuclear power represents a viable alternative for the production of electricity in Romania. Cernavoda NPP Unit 1 assures about 10% of the overall national electricity production, thus avoiding the production and release into the environment of approximately 20,000 tons of flying ashes, 4 million tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that contribute to acid rain and global warming. The new market economy system, under implementation in Romania, which includes deregulation and competition, encourages the further development of nuclear power sector in Romania. The Cernavoda NPP Unit 2 is now about 30% completed. The Government of Romania has recently issued an Ordinance providing the framework for the completion of Cernavoda NPP Unit 2, including special provisions for financing aspects.

The completion of Cernavoda NPP Unit 2, a replica of Unit 1, will be supported by the existing infrastructures and technical facilities, as well as by the Romanian staff (customer, contractors, suppliers and designers) properly qualified and organized. This places Romania in an excellent position to optimize its resources and nuclear infrastructure for finalisation of Cernavoda NPP Unit 2 which is planned to be completed by year 2005.

Mr. President,

Romania attaches great importance to the strengthening and further developing of nuclear safety. At the request of the Romanian Regulatory Body, the Agency recently performed an OSEF (Operational Safety Experience Feedback) review mission in order to obtain an independent peer review of the latest developments and implementation of the national OSEF process. We appreciate the usefulness of this mission, whose recommendations and findings are in a process of being incorporated into the Romanian OSEF process aimed at increasing the safe operation of Cernavoda NPP.

Mr. President,

Romania gives a high priority to nuclear liability regime. Therefore Romania has ratified the Protocol to Amend Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. A national draft law on civil liability which follows closely these international instruments is under consideration in the Romanian Parliament.

In the meantime, I am pleased to inform you that the internal procedures regarding the acceptance of the amendments of Art. VI and Art. XIV. A of the IABA Statute are in an advanced stage. The draft law on acceptance of the amendments has been adopted by the Romanian Senate. It is my expectation that the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament will make all the efforts to approve these amendments by the end of the year.

As to the institutional developments in nuclear area, I would like to refer to the restructuring of the organizational chart of the Romanian Regulatory Body. Changes were made in order to better reflect the new trends of its policy. Thus, a higher priority was given to safeguards and physical protection, radioactive waste management and public awareness policy.

The National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control is updating its nuclear regulatory framework. By way of example, I would like to mention the Fundamental Norms on Radiological Safety, which have recently entered into force. The Norms reflect the European Union Council Directive 96/29 Euratom on May 13 1996 and takes into account the latest recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency and of the International Commission for Radiation Protection.

Mr. President,

I would like to ensure you of my country support for the Agency Program and Budget for 2001 based on zero real growth principle. Romania fully understands the efforts made by the Agency to cover the areas mentioned in the Medium Term Strategy. I take this opportunity to inform you that Romania has made regular payments to the regular budget and to the Technical Cooperation Fund and will make all the efforts to fulfill its obligations regarding the Assessed Program Costs.

As one of the beneficiaries of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Assistance, Romania is aware of the importance of an efficient mechanism for financing the Technical Cooperation Fund. Therefore we appreciate and welcome the draft resolution recommended by the Board of Governors on the financing of technical cooperation.

Mr. President,

The IAEA Technical Co-operation Program represents for my country an efficient way for facilitating training of experts, transfer of equipment and know-how with the view of developing nuclear peaceful activities in Romania. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express our appreciation for this continuous support.

It is worth mentioning in this context that in the last years, within the framework of the Agency's Technical Co-operation Program, fellows and experts from several developing countries were trained in Romania. We reaffirm once again our readiness, as part of our contribution to the IAEA Technical Co-operation Program, to continue such training in Romania and also to share with other developing countries the expertise we have gained.

With respect to the Regional Technical Co-operation Program for Europe, Romania stands ready to contribute substantially to those activities through hosting training courses and workshops and providing on-the-job training in our nuclear facilities.

Mr. President,

I would like to express my appreciation for the assistance given by the IAEA in organizing the annual National Public Information Symposium on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy -NUCINFO. This year it was held between 5 and 8 September, not far away from the National Repository for Radioactive Waste. The agenda of the symposium included topics related to radioactive waste management and site restoration in uranium industry.

In concluding my statement I wish to reiterate the full support of the Romanian Government to the actions and activities carried out by Dr. Mohammed ElBaradei and his staff to accomplish the objectives set forth in the Statute.

Thank you, Mr. President.