

**Statement by
ROMANIA**

**at the 60th Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency
(IAEA)**

Vienna, 26 - 30 September 2016

**Mr. President,
Mr. Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Romania fully aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of the European Union, and welcomes this opportunity to reaffirm, in national capacity, its commitment in promoting and developing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Mr. President,

NPT

Romania has been steadfast in its active engagement to nuclear non-proliferation. As a non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**, Romania is convinced that the NPT remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We are now stepping into the new review cycle 2015-2020, which has the potential to further reinforce the Treaty, both by reviewing its implementation by the States Parties, and providing forward-looking steps towards progress on all three pillars of the NPT: disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In the process ahead, we can rely on the achievements so far in areas which are important for the IAEA and its Member States, such as safeguards, nuclear safety and security and technical cooperation.

Safeguards

Romania fully support the efforts of the AIEA to implement safeguards in the most effective and efficient way. We believe that the application of safeguards in the context of the **State Level Concept will allow the AIEA to improve efficiency** of safeguards implementation for each State within the existing legal framework of the State concerned, as appropriate.

In order to carry out effectively its verification function under the NPT, the IAEA needs legal authority, strong verification tools, cooperation with States and sufficient resources. The Agency is able to provide credible assurances on the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in a State as a whole only for States with Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements/CSAs and Additional Protocols/APs in force. In our view, a CSA together with an AP should become the verification standard for non-nuclear-weapon States party to the NPT.

Iran

We welcome the Agency's new report regarding the implementation, by Iran, of the JCPOA and its Annexes, issued for the September IAEA Board of Governors. A lot of progress has been made since 16 January 2016, but the work is far from ending. As we proceed to full implementation of the agreement, we must remain vigilant. The JCPOA is founded on verification, vigilance and enforcement. It is essential that all its provisions continue to be observed. In this respect, the role of the IAEA remains essential in what concerns the monitoring of the implementation, by Iran, of the commitments under JCPOA.

DPRK

The nuclear test announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 9 September 2016 constitutes yet another blatant violation of the relevant UN SC Resolutions, and a major threat to international peace and security. As Chair of the CTBT PrepCom, Romania condemned in the strongest possible terms this irresponsible act.

We urge the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** to comply fully, unconditionally and without delay with all its international obligations and to resume the negotiating process in the format of the Six Party Talks.

Mr. President,

Based on its more than 60-year experience and expertise in the nuclear field, **Romania is ready to share its theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of nuclear safety and security with other IAEA Member States.** Our national institutions offer training and assistance bilaterally or through the IAEA TC program, which help other Member States build and improve their systems and personnel.

PUI

The IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) is a valuable and flexible mechanism to mobilize voluntary extra-budgetary resources to help address development needs of Member States. That is why Romania would like to take this opportunity to state its support for PUI, and to commend its role in ensuring food security, advancing human health and protecting the environment.

TC

Romania is also a strong supporter of the **IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) Program**, and of the statutory right of all Member States to be eligible for TC programs. TC is the way in which the Agency promotes the applications of nuclear related techniques to Member States economic and social needs, hence contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, TC also helps Member States with peaceful nuclear power programs implementing the IAEA standards of safety and security and strengthening their regulatory infrastructure.

Romania benefitted from the TC in a number of programs on nuclear security and safety, while also offering regularly in-kind contributions.

NSS – preventing nuclear terrorism

At the last **Nuclear Security Summit** that took place in Washington D.C. this year, Romania was represented by President Klaus Werner Iohannis. The substantial results, complemented by the smooth organization, brought us decisively closer to our common goal of securing nuclear material and thus preventing nuclear terrorism. The outcome of this Summit is faithfully reflected in the Final Communique and the five Plans of Action, which will also serve as guidelines for taking forward the nuclear security agenda. Although NSS 2016 was the last event in this format, the Sherpa representatives will continue to meet in order to maintain the nuclear security issue high on the international agenda. Romania took part in a very engaging first meeting of the **Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG)** which took part here in Vienna, on 23 September 2016.

We fully support the transition of the NSS process towards a more inclusive format, under the auspices of the IAEA. And in this respect, we encourage all Member States to participate at the highest level possible at the **IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions**, due to take place on 5/9 December 2016, in Vienna.

GICNT

Romania welcomes the role played by the **Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT)** and is pleased to announce that, in cooperation with INTERPOL, will organize the regional Exercise OLYMPUS on 19-21 October, in Bucharest. The event will take place under the auspices of the GICNT, and will seek to identify best practices related to interagency coordination and communication in support of technical reach back during a terrorist attempt to acquire or use radioactive materials.

The outcomes of Exercise OLYMPUS will be shared with all GICNT partners, and will also be presented during the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security, on 5-9 December 2016, in Vienna.

CPPNM Amendment

The nuclear security regime was further consolidated on 8 May 2016, when the **Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)** entered into force, after ratification by two-thirds of the States Parties. The Convention and the Amendment thereto are, at the moment, the only legally binding international instruments in the area of physical protection of nuclear material and we must now focus on the full implementation and universalization.

Distinguished delegates,

IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database

As a national contact point for the physical protection of nuclear materials and for preventing and combating the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive material, the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) contributes to the **IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database**, having the responsibility to report if such events occur on the Romanian territory.

CNCAN - AIEA

Romania is thankful for the opportunity to use the **IAEA Extra-budgetary Programme** under which the activities of the “Regional Excellence Project on Regulatory Capacity Building in Nuclear and Radiological Safety Emergency Preparedness and Response in Romania” are carried-out. The project is developed by CNCAN of Romania, in cooperation with the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) and the IAEA under the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 having a budget of 4,215,098 Euro, and the implementation period 2014-2016.

Mr. President,

ANDR – spent fuel

Romania gives the highest attention to spent fuel and radioactive waste management in order to meet the specific obligation for the implementation of the Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom (the "Waste Directive"). In this respect, the Romanian Nuclear Agency and for Radioactive Waste (ANDR) is in the planning process for a **Final Repository for Low and Intermediate Radioactive Waste (DFDSMA)**, which is intended to be a near surface disposal site with a sustainable multi-barrier system.

DG Amano

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my delegation’s sincere appreciation to the IAEA Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano, for his tireless efforts, hard work, high professionalism and thorough impartiality demonstrated during his two terms at the helm of the IAEA. Bearing in mind that the Director General announced his availability for a further term of office, we hope that the Board of Governors’ meeting in June 2017 will be in position to reach consensus, and agree that the re-appointment shall be made by acclamation. **Director General Amano, I want to assure you of Romania’s full support in the re-election process.**

Finally, Mr. President,

Romania would like to the IAEA Secretariat of full cooperation in the framework of the Agency’s continuous effort to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Thank you.