

**Statement by ROMANIA
at the 64th session of the General Conference of
the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Vienna, 21 - 25 September 2020**

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

Romania subscribes to the statement made by the representative of the European Union, but I would like to bring up very concisely some important aspects in national capacity.

We are witnessing a global phenomenon that underscores once again the need for solidarity in order to overcome its impact. The COVID-19 pandemic is testing our collective ability to adapt constantly the methods of work. To its credit, the IAEA has reacted promptly in coordinating the assistance to the countries in need. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the generous donors and IAEA for equipping Romanian hospitals and specialized institutions with materials necessary for testing COVID-19.

Apart from this topical issue, I commend IAEA's efforts and its many achievements and I assure you of Romania's support for the work of the Director General and of the management of the Agency.

Just before the pandemic gained speed and the lockdown was declared, the IAEA member states succeeded to hold in Vienna the landmark *High Level International Conference on nuclear security: sustaining and strengthening efforts/ICONS 2020* (Vienna, 10-14 February), co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, H.E. Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, together with the Vice-minister from Panama, H.E. Mr. Federico Alfaro Boyd. The Permanent Representatives of Romania and Panama acted as coordinators of the preparatory process for the conference and co-chaired the informal open-ended consultations among Member States.

An important achievement of the conference, attended by 1.900 participants from 141 Member States, 53 of which were represented at the ministerial level, and 25 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, was the adoption by consensus of the Ministerial Declaration. The Declaration demonstrates Member States' strong commitment to strengthening nuclear security to counter the threat of nuclear terrorism and other malicious acts. Strengthened nuclear security helps to ensure that all countries can enjoy the huge benefits of nuclear science and technology in improving the prosperity and well-being of their peoples. The 109 ministers and other heads of delegations that delivered national statements acknowledged the importance of national commitments to strengthen nuclear security globally, and the need for international cooperation and assistance to complement and support national actions, expressing appreciation for the Agency's central role in coordinating such international efforts. Technical discussions and side-events further underlined the importance of strengthening nuclear security worldwide. I sincerely hope that the resolution on nuclear security to be adopted at this GC will accurately reflect the outcome of ICONS 2020.

In his national address to the ICONS, Romania's minister of foreign affairs informed about another recognition of my country's contribution to promoting the goals of the IAEA, namely the designation of the Nuclear Research Institute in Pitesti as International Center based on Research Reactor in two areas of activity: "Education and Training" and "Joint Research and

Development Projects”. Today, in the same vein, it is my great pleasure to announce that the Laboratory of National Research and Development Institute for Cryogenic and Isotopic Technologies (ICSI) has been accepted to IAEA’s ALMERA Network.

As we celebrate, in 2020, 50 years since the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, I take this opportunity to reaffirm Romania’s commitment to the NPT and to acknowledge it as the fundamental pillar of the non-proliferation regime. On this line, Romania encourages all states to become parties to the relevant treaties and conventions aimed to create a strong nuclear safety and security regime (i.e. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), the Amendment to CPPNM, the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSTANT) and the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Even if starting from March 2020 we function in pandemic-mood, specific activities are still carried-out by our national institutions: the Romanian National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) and the Nuclear Agency and for Radioactive Waste (ANDR).

First, I would like to mention that all efforts have been made in order to assure the conditions for entering on the Romanian territory of safeguards inspectors (both from Euratom and IAEA). The inspections carried-out at the major nuclear facilities (Cernavoda NPP, Feldioara Plant, Institute for Nuclear Research in Pitesti and “Horia Hulubei” National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering) revealed no undeclared nuclear material and no diversion of nuclear material from the peaceful nuclear purposes.

Also, Romania’s experts took part, both as lecturers and participants, in a series of webinars organized by IAEA, such as training of inspectors in nuclear security related issues, meeting on reviewing the IAEA documents on carrying out the INSServ missions. I am pleased to announce that IAEA publications “Training Course Series 45 - Non - Destructive Testing: Sample Questions for Conduct of Examinations all Levels 1 and 2, IAEA, Vienna, 2010” and “Training Course Series 60 - Guideline on Training, Examination and Certification in Digital Industrial Radiology Testing (RT-D), IAEA, Vienna, 2015” are now available also in Romanian language thanks to the initiative of the Romanian Association of Non-Destructive Examinations – AroEND to translate them from English, in order to be made available to a wider public, to students, professionals, universities, industry etc.

I would like to mention Romania’s appreciation and support for the Agency’s Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme, including through national voluntary financial contributions. Romania, through ANDR has taken constant steps to gradually increase its in-kind contribution: to increase the number of specialists that provide technical expertise in TC programs; to organize in Romania some activities within the TC Program - technical meetings, workshops, symposia, scientific visits, conferences; to increase the contributions of Romanian specialists for finalizing some reports within the Action Plan of the INPRO Program and not least to discuss with IAEA representatives in order to organize the Artemis mission this November.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since it last served on the BoG, between 2008-2010, Romania has achieved a lot in the peaceful use of the atom and the promotion of an effective multilateralism. We are proud of more than 60 years of nuclear sector built in close cooperation with the Agency and member states, spanning the full spectrum from mining to decommissioning. Our participation and support of the TC program, including through voluntary contributions and sharing of expertise at the regional level, is widely recognized. This record has encouraged us to apply again, after 12

years, for a place on the Board for the seat available to the EEG. Romania sincerely hopes to join the Board this year in order to further increase its contribution to the fulfillment of the IAEA's mission: atoms for peace and development.

Allow me to conclude my intervention by thanking DG Grossi and the IAEA Secretariat for its full cooperation with Romania in the framework of the mutual and continuous effort to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Thank you!