

**Statement by ROMANIA
at the 65th session of the General Conference of
the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Vienna, 20-24 September 2021**

Dear President,

Mr. Director General,

Distinguished Delegates,

Romania subscribes to the statement made by the representative of the European Union. I would like also to mention a few important elements in national capacity.

I commend IAEA's efforts during the current complex dynamic resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic and I assure you of Romania's support for the work of the Director General and of the management of the Agency.

One of the lessons learnt resulted from addressing the challenge of COVID-19 pandemic, is that solidarity and coordination are key in overcoming any hardships the states are experiencing. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the generous donors and IAEA for coordinating and equipping Romanian hospitals and specialized institutions with materials necessary for testing COVID-19.

Preserving the achievements we have so far and continuing progress for the benefit of international peace, security and stability is another lesson learnt.

I reaffirm the continuous support for the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), as the foundation of the international global regime on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and for promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Romania stands ready to work together with its international partners towards a successful Tenth Review Conference in 2022.

I also underline, as a contribution to the implementation of the NPT and to the overall work of the IAEA, Romania's efforts towards a successful *High Level International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts (ICONS 2020)* that took place in Vienna, on 10-14 February 2020, and the adoption by consensus of a Ministerial Declaration. It is a clear proof of our commitment to multilateralism and to a consolidated international global regime on nuclear non-proliferation.

The celebration, this year, of 25 years since the opening for signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty prompts us to renew the call for the entry into force and universalization of the CTBT, as well as for immediate start of negotiations, in the Conference on Disarmament, on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). Romania also 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)).

A significant element with a major role in a strengthening the global regime of nuclear non-proliferation is represented by the IAEA safeguards system. Our common interest relies on upholding and sustaining an efficient and effective safeguards system, as inalienable part of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture. Romania continues to call for the universalization of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols without delay.

Even if we still work in pandemic-mood, specific activities are carried-out by our national institutions, in particular by the Romanian National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) and the Nuclear Agency and for Radioactive Waste (ANDR). In order to adapt to COVID 19 pandemic, many projects were held online or in a hybrid format. The Romanian authorities managed however to organize some events with in person participation.

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 (Cernavodă 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. An IAEA ARTEMIS mission, requested by Romania, will be hosted by ANDR in November 2021.

Romania’s CNCAN jointly co-hosted together with IAEA a number of events, such as: *National Workshop on Threat Assessment and Design Basis Threat* (held virtually in March 2021), *Transport Security of Nuclear Materials Tabletop Exercise* (with in person participation, held in May 2021), *National Workshop on Nuclear Security Measures for Major Public Events* (with in person participation, held in June 2021), *Regional training Course on Computer Security Incident Response for Nuclear Facilities* (held in hybrid format in July 2021). I can also mention here the cooperation with the United States Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration to organize between March-September 2021 a comprehensive online series of workshops dedicated to the regional implementation of INFCIRC 909 Joint statement on Transport Security of Nuclear Materials.

Romania’s experts took part, both as lecturers and participants, in a series of webinars organized by IAEA. Romanian experts from RATEN – Institute for Nuclear Research Pitești and ANDR participated as members of the INPRO working group dedicated to finalize, for subsequent

publication, of 2 reports on *Factory Fuel – Small Modular Reactors* and *Comparative Evaluation of Nuclear Energy System Options*. Designation of the Nuclear Research Institute in Pitești as International Center based on Research Reactor in two areas of activity: “Education and Training” and “Joint Research and Development Projects” - is another recognition of Romania’s contribution to promoting the goals of the IAEA.

The Horia Hulubei National Institute for Research&Development in Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH) continues to be involved in strengthening nuclear forensics in Romania. Its laboratory is now equipped and ready to assist Romanian authorities as well as regional and international partners in responding to cases of unauthorized use of nuclear or other radioactive materials. Romania’s expertise is already a valuable asset for steering the Nuclear Forensics Working Group of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Decommissioning nuclear facilities is another field of action where IFIN-HH can provide training based on its own experience.

I would also like to mention Romania’s appreciation and its support for the Agency’s Technical Cooperation (TC) Program, including through national voluntary financial contributions.

In preparing for the 2022-2023 IAEA TC Program, Romania submitted 5 national project proposals and 12 regional project proposals, of which were approved 3 national projects and 2 regional ones, on *Enhancing and harmonizing nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging capabilities* and on *Improving efficiency in water and soil management*, in line with the European Green Deal which aims to achieve an economy and society resilient to climate change challenges.

Thank you!