

**Statement by ROMANIA**  
**at the 66th session of the General Conference of**  
**the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**  
**Vienna, 26-30 September 2022**

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

Romania fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I would also like to add a few elements in my national capacity.

We meet at a time of an unprecedented mix of crises, marked by the premeditated and unprovoked military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, a gross violation of international law, including the UN Charter. Russia's actions are unacceptable and pose serious and direct threats to the safety and security of Ukrainian nuclear facilities, as highlighted by the Board resolutions adopted in March and September.

As stated on numerous occasions, we reiterate our call to Russia to stop its illegal war and occupation, immediately and unconditionally withdraw all its forces and

military equipment from within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders, and immediately hand over the control of Zaporizhzhya NPP to the competent Ukrainian authorities.

Romania strongly condemns any attempts by the Russian Federation to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. This includes holding illegal "*referenda*" in Ukraine's territory. We will not recognise any illegal entities nor annexation of Ukraine's territory.

This military aggression overlaps with the energy crisis, challenges posed by climate change and food insecurity. On all these matters, the Agency has an important role to play.

**Mr. President,**

In this very context, Romania reaffirms its continuous support to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, and an important element in the promotion of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We regret that, in spite of all the efforts, the NPT community could not achieve consensus on the final outcome of the NPT Review Conference, due to the Russian Federation's decision to block such consensus. The fact that all the other States Parties were ready to support the final draft speaks to the Treaty's enduring value. We are encouraged by the fact that States were able to engage in meaningful conversations and

overcome their differences with respect to many issues on the NPT RevCon agenda, and we believe that during the next NPT review cycle, we can build upon the good work done in New York.

We equally renew our call for the entry into force and universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), as well as for the immediate start of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). Romania also encourages all states to become parties to the relevant treaties and conventions that aimed at creating a strong nuclear safety and security regime, that are adopted under the auspices of the IAEA and under the United Nations.

We further reiterate our full and continued support to the IAEA's safeguards system. Our common interest to strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture, upholding and sustaining an efficient and effective safeguards system. Romania continues to call for the universalization of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols as the current verification standard.

**Mr. President,**

Romania recognizes that the use of nuclear power requires a strong nuclear safety culture, including the adoption and implementation of the international safety instruments and standards.

We are pleased to announce the approval of a National Strategy for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Moreover, at the request of

the Nuclear and Radioactive Waste Agency (ANDR), an ARTEMIS Mission to Romania was successfully conducted in March, with the aim of providing an independent international evaluation of Romania's National Strategy and related Programme. The ARTEMIS Review Team considered that Romania is in a good position to continue meeting high standards of safe and responsible management of radioactive waste and spent fuel in a sustainable manner.

At the same time, nuclear security norms are well integrated into the relevant regulatory documents implemented by the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) at the national level. We are grateful for the bilateral cooperation with the specialized offices of the US National Nuclear Security Administration to further national capacities and identify areas of continued collaboration.

In the field of physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities, and preventing and combating the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive material, Romania participates in the IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database. Additionally, the Horia Hulubei National Institute for Research&Development in Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH) continues to be involved in nuclear forensics in Romania. Its laboratory is ready to assist national authorities, as well as regional and international partners, in responding to cases of unauthorized use of nuclear or other radioactive materials.

**Mr. President,**

Romania supports the IAEA's work related to the nuclear safety and security of advanced nuclear reactors, such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

A year ago, the Romanian President announced our intend to build a first-of-a-kind US SMR project. By deploying this innovative clean technology, Romania is taking a step in advancing climate action and clean energy access.

Today, I am pleased to inform that an IAEA team of experts conducted in August a safety review mission related to Romania's process for selecting the site of our planned SMR, following an in-depth study conducted under a US Trade and Development Agency grant. At the request of Romania, the Site and External Events Design (SEED) review mission was the first to be conducted by the IAEA in relation to an SMR project.

The national operator, State Owned Company Nuclearelectrica remains committed to develop this project with due observance of the highest safety standards, as they have done over 25 years of operating the Cernavodă NPP and in close cooperation with the Agency.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to reaffirm Romania's appreciation for and longstanding commitment to the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, including through national

voluntary contributions. In preparing for the 2024-2025 IAEA TC Program, Romania submitted 5 national projects covering national priorities in the areas of waste management, human health, food security and energy, and participates in 8 regional and 3 interregional projects in the same areas.

We would equally like to express our gratitude for the opportunity to carry out activities aimed at enhancing nuclear safety and security in Romania, in cooperation with the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority and the IAEA, under the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 using extra-budgetary resources.

Romania also supports the Rays of Hope initiative, including by offering national expertise from medical centres in Romania, as well as other initiatives aimed at addressing Sustainable Development Goals.

I thank you!