

**Statement by  
ROMANIA**  
**at the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy  
Agency (IAEA)**  
*(Vienna, 22 - 26 September 2014)*

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

On behalf of Romania, let me join the other delegations in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election as President of this 58<sup>th</sup> General Conference Session. I can assure you, Mr. President, as well as the Members of the Bureau and the Secretariat, of the full support of Romania in your efforts to make this Conference a success.

Romania would also like to thank the Director General and the Secretariat of the IAEA for their professionalism and impartiality in their activity and assure them of all our support.

Let me also welcome the application for membership of the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu.

Romania fully subscribe to the statement delivered earlier by the European Union. Therefore, I would like to limit my intervention to a few brief points of national relevance.

**Mr. President,**

Over the years, Romania has had an excellent cooperation with the specialized services of the IAEA. None of the missions carried-out by IAEA in Romania ever identified any undeclared nuclear material and there was never any indication of possible diversion of nuclear material from peaceful nuclear purposes.

As a State Party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Romania is convinced that the NPT remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. In this context, we strongly promote a comprehensive and balanced approach towards the three pillars of the NPT regime, as the best way forward to implement the 2010 NPT Action Plan.

In this context, Romania has assumed an active role in the current review cycle process, having the privilege to chair the Second Preparatory Committee in Geneva. Romania will have also the honor to chair the Main Committee II at the Review Conference in 2015. The upcoming Conference is indeed a great opportunity for all State Parties to renew and intensify their commitment to the NPT. Our firm belief is that a general commitment to fully implement the Action Plan's provisions will further strengthen the three pillars of the Treaty: the nuclear disarmament, the non-proliferation and the peaceful uses.

The longstanding objective of a complete elimination of nuclear weapons must be accompanied by strict adherence by all states to their non-proliferation obligations. As a country with a relevant civilian nuclear program, Romania fully supports the right of any State to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, under the condition that non-proliferation, safety and security conditions are entirely met. Maintaining the balance between rights and obligations envisaged in the Treaty is essential.

Romania underlines the special role of the IAEA and its safeguards system and stands for the enhancement of its effectiveness.

Romania considers that the safeguards system is the right instrument ensuring the control, by both the IAEA and the EURATOM, over all the raw and special fissionable materials. In light of the developments over the past several years, which have underscored the critical role of the Additional Protocol and the comprehensive safeguards agreements - which contributed to strengthening the IAEA's capacity to detect and respond to non-compliance with safeguards obligations - we welcome the further development of the State Level Concept, as a valuable tool of the implementation of the NPT, helping to create an environment conducive to nuclear peaceful cooperation.

Furthermore, Romania welcomes the extension of the United States' contribution, beyond 2015, to the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), which augments the resources of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Fund and provides the IAEA with additional flexibility to respond to crises and emerging challenges.

Indeed, there is a real need for new steps to counter global threats and challenges coming from the states (or non-state actors) which defy international law and global standards in the field. Concrete results should be registered with those states not currently in compliance with their respective obligations and commitments. Regarding the Iranian nuclear file, although no final agreement has yet been reached, we remain hopeful that the current extension of negotiations will be used wisely and efficiently in order to achieve this final important step. Regarding the DPRK, Romania condemns the continuation of proliferation activities and provocations, and urges the DPRK to comply fully, unconditionally and without delay with all its international obligations.

#### **Distinguished delegates,**

Allow me now to turn to the issues of nuclear safety and security.

Romania is strongly committed to the efforts of strengthening nuclear safety and security and reducing the continuing threat of nuclear terrorism.

In the light of the accident which occurred at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, Romania highly appreciates the activities carried-out by IAEA in view of addressing the issues of nuclear safety and nuclear security in a coherent manner, helping to ensure the safe and secure peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Considering that nuclear power will remain important for many countries, it is imperative for every country to initiate comprehensive actions devoted to strengthen, at national level, the nuclear safety and security, including through the establishment and implementation of various legally and non-legally binding instruments.

For its part, Romania is a State Party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the Amendment to the CPPNM, as well as the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSTANT) and the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and, therefore, encourages all States that have not yet done so to become party to the CPPNM, to ratify its Amendment and to sign and ratify CTBT.

At the Hague Nuclear Security Summit held in March 2014, Romania assumed several unilateral commitments in the fields of nuclear security, one of them being already implemented, while the others are under implementation:

- On 12 -16 May 2014, Romania already received an IAEA International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) mission, with the objective of assessing the national capabilities for detection and response in case of illicit trafficking involving nuclear and radioactive materials;

- We are currently preparing to address an official request to IAEA for an IPPAS follow-up mission in 2016;
- We will also make a voluntary contribution to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund.

Furthermore, we are currently making all efforts to ensure full alignment of our national regulations with the latest IAEA Nuclear Security Recommendations.

Based on a bilateral document signed last year, between the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) of Romania and the IAEA / Office of Nuclear Security, CNCAN will benefit of specialised support in areas like security culture, prevention and protection against threats, security of transport of radioactive materials, design basis threats, security of radioactive sources, combating illicit trafficking of nuclear materials. Some activities have been carried-out during the year and others are being planned.

We recognize the importance of having a formally established long-term sustainability programme to support the continuous effectiveness of the physical protection regime and we will address this as part of our National Strategy for nuclear safety and security. We are pleased to announce the approval, through Governmental Decision in July 2014, of the *National Strategy for Nuclear Safety and Security*. Through a joint involvement of all national authorities and institutions with relevant responsibilities in this field, we are now working on its implementation, with the aim of strengthening the level of nuclear safety and security on the Romanian territory.

We are also pleased to inform that Romania, through CNCAN, and the Kingdom of Norway, through the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA), together with the IAEA started, this year, the extra-budgetary *“Regional Excellence Project on Regulatory Capacity Building in Nuclear and Radiological Safety, Emergency Preparedness and Response in Romania”*. This Project is funded by a grant within the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, the financing area “Capacity Building and Institutional Cooperation between Romanian and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities”/RO18.

**Mr. President,**

Romania highly appreciates the excellent collaboration with the IAEA, including from the perspective of the IAEA technical assistance of which Romania benefited in view of improving its national nuclear capabilities.

The safe management and disposal of radioactive waste and spent fuel are major challenges for the future of nuclear power. The risk that nuclear or other radioactive material could be diverted from their normal use remains high, and represents a serious threat to international peace and security.

The relevant institutions in Romania assumed their obligations and responsibility to ensure that appropriate options for the management and disposal of nuclear fuel and radioactive waste are provided. These institutions must also ensure that using nuclear energy does not create undue risks for the present and future generations.

Romania is an active participant in national, regional and inter-regional projects, covering the short and medium term national development priorities in the areas of waste management, human health and R&D.

The national Nuclear Agency shall build the Low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste (LILW) repository by 2020, and, in this respect, the cooperation with the IAEA Technical Cooperation (TC) is important for providing the necessary support in fulfilling the prerequisite steps prior to the implementation of this project. In this context, in October 2014, Romania will host, in cooperation with

the IAEA TC, an expert mission which will focus on the importance of public acceptance, communication strategy and the action plan for the planned repository.

The national Nuclear Agency holds the position of National Liaison Officer for Romania, in relation with the IAEA TC. In this context and in accordance with the IAEA TC guides, the national Nuclear Agency submitted in May 2014, to the IAEA TC and using the IAEA TC tools, three Category A national projects and one Category B national project, which will be implemented in 2016-2017. The fields requiring assistance refer to: improving the radiotherapy services in Romania, enhancing radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel management, further development of the regulatory infrastructure, as well as the need to finalize the educational and training refueling simulator.

The national Nuclear Agency acts also as the National Contact Point for the INPRO Program, having the main responsibility to develop a medium and long-term national assessment of the contribution of nuclear energy in the Romanian national energy mix, a project called „NESA in ROMANIA – Nuclear Energy System Assessment”. The deliverables of this project will consist in two Interim Reports published in September 2014, on the Planning of the National Energetic System on Infrastructure, Radioactive Waste Management and Economy, and on the Evaluation of the sustainability of the nuclear energetic system, using the INPRO methodology, respectively. The final report, which is scheduled to be ready in 2016, will include an overall assessment and will touch upon the following fields: physical protection, safety of nuclear power plant and nuclear infrastructures, environment protection, proliferation resistance.

**Finally, Mr. President,**

Romania would like to assure Director General Amano and the Secretariat of our full support and cooperation in the framework of the Agency’s continuous effort to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

I thank you, Mr President.