

**Statement by ROMANIA**  
**at the 67th session of the General Conference of**  
**the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**  
**Vienna, 25-29 September 2023**

**Madame President,**  
**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.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Director General Grossi on his reappointment and assure him of our continued support.

Unfortunately, as it was the case a year ago, we are meeting today while Russia's illegal aggression against Ukraine is still on-going. We will not tire to reiterate that Russia is knowingly breaching international law. We also remain deeply concerned of the situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) as a result of Russia's actions. These actions pose a threat to the safety of this facility and gravely endanger civilian population with potential wide consequences.

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 Zaporizhzhia NPP to the competent Ukrainian authorities.

I take this opportunity to strongly condemn the recent Russian attacks against Ukrainian civilian infrastructure on the Danube river, very close to Romania. This recent escalation poses serious risks to the security in the Black Sea region and affects further the global food security.

**Madame President,**

Romania reaffirms its continuous support to the 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 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).

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

Moreover, Romania also encourages all states to become parties to the relevant treaties and conventions aimed at creating a strong nuclear safety and security architecture.

**Madame 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. Romania requested and will receive in the fourth quarter of 2023 an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) full-scope mission.

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. It is active in organizing international workshops with a strong regional component such as „Vigilant Eagle” together with the Romanian MFA and the US Department of State. 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.

**Madame President,**

Nuclear energy represents a basic component of the energy mix in Romania. It is one of the strategic options that Romania relies on to cover the energy needs for the coming years, at affordable prices for consumers. In this vein, the refurbishment of Unit 1 and the Project of Units 3 and 4 of the Cernavodă NPP are a priority for my country, contributing to ensuring energy security and achieving the decarbonisation objectives set at the national level.

Romania also supports the work of the IAEA related to the nuclear safety and security of advanced nuclear reactors, such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). By deploying this innovative clean technology, Romania is taking a step in advancing

climate action and clean energy access, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Training a new generation of specialists in the nuclear field is of particular importance for Romania. From our point of view, the development of the workforce in this sector can be achieved by cooperation between states, but also between companies and universities. In this regard, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, Romania launched at the Politehnica University of Bucharest the E2 Centre in collaboration with NuScale and the US Government. In this way, Romania takes steps to become not only an energy hub in the region, but also an educational one.

The national operator, State Owned Company Nuclearelectrica remains committed to develop these projects 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.

**Madame 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.

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.

I thank you.