

## **STATEMENT**

**By**

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**Resident Representative of Romania**

**At the**

**61<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency**

*Vienna, 18 - 22 September 2017*

Madam President,

I would like to congratulate you on assuming this important office and pledge Romania's full support to achieve the success of the General Conference.

Romania fully aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the European Union and welcomes this opportunity to reaffirm, in its national capacity, the commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. As a non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the NPT, Romania is convinced that the Treaty remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, which also provides a perspective of a world free of nuclear weapons. Romania continues to be engaged in pursuing the goal of nuclear disarmament in a gradual, step-by-step approach, which takes into account the evolving security context and puts a premium on the entry into force of CTBT and starting the negotiations on a fissile materials cut-off treaty.

The implementation of NPT must be strengthened in every respect, and in particular regarding the application of the IAEA safeguards. The Agency deserves from all of us the utmost support to implement its mandate and nothing else than its mandate in the most effective and efficient way. We believe that the application of safeguards in the context of the State Level Concept will allow the AIEA to improve efficiency while maintaining and strengthening the effectiveness of safeguards implementation for each State within the existing legal framework of the State concerned set out in its Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol, as appropriate.

Romania welcomes the ongoing implementation by all parties of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). A lot of progress has been made, but the work is still ongoing. The JCPOA is founded on verification, vigilance and enforcement. It is essential that all its provisions continue to be observed. In this respect, the role of the IAEA remains essential in what concerns the monitoring of the implementation, by Iran, of the commitments under JCPOA.

The nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 3 September 2017, alongside missile tests constitute yet another blatant violation of the relevant UN SC Resolutions and a major threat to international peace and security. We condemn this action in the strongest possible terms. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply fully, unconditionally and without delay with all its international obligations.

Madam President,

The risk of nuclear terrorism is a worldwide concern. The significant results of the Nuclear Security Summit process brought us decisively closer to our common goal of securing nuclear material, and thus preventing nuclear terrorism. Romania fully supports the transition of the NSS process towards a more inclusive format, under the auspices of the IAEA. And in this respect, we encourage all Member States to join the Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG), which convenes in the margins of the IAEA GC and other high-level events.

The recent adoption by the Board of Governors of the Nuclear Security Plan 2018 – 2021 is a right step in the right direction, providing a road-map to assist the member states in upgrading the nuclear security standards.

Romania takes full part in the international efforts aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism, and welcomes the role played by the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) in this respect. It is therefore my distinct pleasure to announce that Romania will host the *OLYMPUS RELOADED* Regional Exercise on Nuclear Forensics Support to Investigations, under the GICNT umbrella. The event is due to take place on 7-9 November 2017, in Bucharest, and will seek to identify and discuss challenges in building a case to prosecute criminal and terrorist acts involving radiological-nuclear material. The outcome of Exercise *OLYMPUS* will be shared with all GICNT partners, and will also be presented during future IAEA nuclear security events.

Nuclear forensics is an essential component of regional and international nuclear security, and a strong deterrent of nuclear terrorism. Nuclear forensics is a domain which has recently flourished in Romania, thanks to the dedication of our young

experts. We find it extremely helpful that a Practical Arrangement has been recently signed between the IAEA and “Horia Hulubei” National Institute for R&D in Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH) on cooperation in the field of nuclear forensics. Romanian experts stand ready to contribute substantially to the work of the IAEA in this field.

Madam President,

Romania is a strong supporter of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) Program, and of the statutory right of all Member States to be eligible for TC programs. TC is the way in which the Agency promotes the applications of nuclear related techniques to Member States economic and social needs, hence contributing to the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, TC also helps Member States with peaceful nuclear power programs implementing the IAEA standards of safety and security and strengthening their regulatory infrastructure. Romania benefitted greatly from the TC in a number of programs on nuclear security and safety, while also offering regular in-kind contributions and sharing of expertise at regional and international level.

By the same token, we consider the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) a valuable and flexible mechanism to mobilize voluntary extra-budgetary resources to help address development needs of Member States. That is why Romania would like to take this opportunity to state its support for PUI, and to commend its role in ensuring food security, advancing human health and protecting the environment.

We are thankful for the opportunity to use the IAEA Extra-Budgetary Program under which the activities of the “Regional Excellence Project on Regulatory Capacity Building in Nuclear and Radiological Safety Emergency Preparedness and Response in Romania” are carried-out. The project is developed by the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) of Romania, in cooperation with the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 having a budget of 4,215,098 Euro. I am happy to report that the project was finalized this year by achieving its objective.

Also, this year, in May, under the IFNEC auspices, the Nuclear Agency of Romania organized the international workshop on *Industry View of Nuclear Security/Stakeholder Engagement for Radioactive Waste Management*, with the participation of IAEA experts, as recognition of the major role played by our country in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

By concluding, Romania would like to congratulate Director General Amano and the IAEA Secretariat and assure them of its full support and cooperation as the Agency continues to provide a significant contribution to global peace, security and development.