STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR DORU-ROMUL COSTEA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE – GENEVA

TO THE CLUSTER DEBATE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS
FIRST COMMITTEE
THE SIXTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you on the assuming of this position and assure you and the members of the Bureau of my delegation’s readiness to support all your endeavors for a productive session of the First Committee.

Romania’s position on the topic under discussion today – which is nuclear weapons – is fully reflected in the statement entered on delivered by the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union. Thus, I will refrain from repeating it and rather focus on some particular aspects.

Mr Chairman,

Very often this year and in different settings - including last week during the General debate in the First Committee - we have heard bleak assessments of the current status of disarmament and non-proliferation, especially in the nuclear field. We complete's share such concerns, caused by repeated failures of the international community to take common, consensual action against the nexus of old and new threats to global peace and security. The Seventh Review Conference of the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (RevCon VPT), the Disarmament Commission, the World Summit; the Conference on Disarmament – all represent missed opportunities for strengthening the multilateral norms and measures aimed at furthering nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.

Romania joined the cross-regional initiative launched by Norway in an attempt to contribute with concrete proposals on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation to be included in the Summit Outcome Document. We are encouraged by the support received, although not enough to bridge the still too divergent positions and priorities of the entire UN membership.
Mr. Chairman,

In efficiently responding to our century's challenges, we are of the view that, while designing new and modern mechanisms, the existing ones must also be reinforced. We think that these are complementary and not competing. As such, Romania attaches particular importance to the Proliferation Security Initiative and Security Council Resolution 1540, and we welcome the recent signing for signature of the International Convention on the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism.

At the same time, we continue to pay attention to the implementation of the obligations under the NPT, as well as of the decisions of the 1992 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences. We took note of last week's updates on Article VI implementation by US - that recently completed the deactivation of its entire force of Peacekeeper intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), according to the obligations under the 2002 Moscow Treaty -- and by the Russian Federation - that, since 1991, it has achieved a fivefold reduction of the aggregate stockpiles of nuclear weapons, and a fourfold reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Romania has always contemplated the nuclear disarmament from a pragmatic perspective, due to the gradual nature of the process, as well as to its numerous political and strategic implications, particularly at global level. This is why, from among several steps, we still be taken in order to accomplish the non-proliferation and disarmament agenda - such as the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty or the universalization of the IAEA Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols - Romania considers a matter of urgency the immediate commencement in the Conference on Disarmament of the negotiations for a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCU). In the meantime, we urge all states - no matter their status - to apply a moratorium on the production of the fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

We are pleased to note the high level of support - expressed during this week in Geneva, but also these days in the First Committee - for starting FMCU negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament. In our opinion this is an achievable and realistic goal for the 2006 session of the CD, especially at a time when it will celebrate 10 years since the completion of its last negotiating session.

I thank you for your attention and I am looking forward for an interactive and fruitful debate.