Statement
by H.E. Ion JINGA,
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on the Nuclear Weapons cluster

New York, 20 October 2015
Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the Chairmanship of the First Committee and to extend our congratulations to the other colleagues in the Bureau. I can assure you of Romania’s full support as you continue to ably steer our debates during the coming weeks. In the interest of time, I will limit my remarks to a few points of particular interest for my delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

Romania remains strongly committed to effective multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms. Consequently, we believe the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty to be the foundation of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and in order to guarantee security for all, the entire international community must recommit itself to fully respect and implement the international law, particularly the provisions of the still indispensable Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

As a member of the NPT RevCon 2015 Bureau, chairing the Main Committee II, Romania had tirelessly worked together with states parties, and the other members of the RevCon Bureau, to ensure the adoption of an outcome document on the 22nd of May, this year. The RevCon fell short of doing that, but the result should not overshadow the process. It allowed for substantial exchange between the states parties, including by identifying an important middle ground for future compromise, as it was apparent in the working documents of all the 3 Main Committees, presented by their respective Chairmen. There is real room for common understanding and compromise, which in our view might not
signify a perfect outcome, but it is one that all of us, together, can work with, and use constructively to bridge divisions.

In the same vein, we are concerned about the developments intended to only broaden the gap in approaches towards a common goal, such as achieving nuclear disarmament, while strengthening the non-proliferation regime. The NPT is charting a clear path and we fail to see any other viable options. The only disarmament negotiations forum, as decided by the General Assembly in SSOD I final document, is the Conference on Disarmament. The other nuclear disarmament forum, created by an overwhelming majority of UN states is the NPT. In this context, we remain to be convinced of the so-called "legal gap", while, it is true, we are quite aware of the existing and widening political gap.

Mr. Chairman,

Romania has joined for the first time the statement delivered by Australia on the humanitarian consequences and we would like to reaffirm our deeply held conviction that nuclear disarmament discussions and negotiations cannot be successful unless they are truly inclusive and they also take into consideration the security dimension and concerns of all states involved in the process.

Like others, we also believe that the entire international community shares the responsibility for concrete results in order to achieve the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. Therefore we are strongly supporting all initiatives meant at kick-starting the work of CD, or in any way support this course of action, and we are reluctant to endorse proposals and resolutions which will only harden divergent views, forging discord and misunderstandings. Only good faith and continuous dialogue can bring about progress. We firmly believe the First Committee has the potential to engender a constructive spirit, in elaborating practical, pragmatic measures for nuclear disarmament, in an inclusive manner,
with the full respect of all states' sovereignty, as well as their security concerns and obligations.

In the meantime, we are looking forward to more reductions in nuclear arsenals and we welcome the initiatives in this respect. As a non-nuclear weapons state, Romania will continue to do its part, through practical steps, in support of the international security architecture, and the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Romania has always been guided by its international legal obligations and will continue to fully abide by the international law and the principles of the UN Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the developments earlier this year which led to a historic agreement forged in Vienna, between E3+3, the EU and Iran (JCPOA), as well as the roadmap between the IAEA and Iran. Both, the JCPOA and the Roadmap are concrete evidence that diplomacy and negotiations are effective tools for ensuring enhanced security for all. In this regard, it is also important that Iran continues to fully cooperate with the IAEA to clarify the possible military dimension, in order to reassure the international community on the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.

Allow me to restate in this forum our conviction that the developments over the past several years have underscored the critical role of the Additional Protocol and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements in contributing to the strengthening of the IAEA's capacity to detect and respond to non-compliance with safeguards obligations. Romania fully supports their universalisation without delay.
Mr. Chairman,

Romania also supports the right of any State to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, provided that non-proliferation, safety and security conditions are entirely met. Maintaining the balance between rights and obligations envisaged in the NPT is essential.

In terms of our national nuclear program, we count on a solid domestic legislation regarding nuclear security, as Romania is party to all relevant legal instruments in the field. Romania also participated in the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in 2012 and the one in The Hague, last year, which marked important steps towards securing nuclear material in the world.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I assure you of my delegation's desire to be an active participant in all relevant discussions with the aim to strengthen the multilateral cooperation in this forum, and with a view to further consolidate the international security architecture.

Thank you.