Statement by H.E. Adrian Vierita, Permanent Representative of Romania at the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Second Session, Geneva, 23 April – 4 May 2018 Cluster II (Non-proliferation)

Mr. Chairman,

Romania aligns itself with the EU statement. In addition, allow me to highlight a few remarks in national capacity.

The NPT, as the cornerstone of the global nuclear governance, has proved its value as an indispensable framework of global disarmament and non-proliferation, covering nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Romania remains fully committed in promoting its universalization and strengthening its implementation, as a crucial instrument for ensuring international peace, security and stability.

The current security environment is challenged by major proliferation threats that need to be addressed in a resolute manner, in order to ensure the credibility and effectiveness of the NPT regime. We strongly believe that non-proliferation is much more than an end in itself, but also a prerequisite to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

Since our previous Preparatory Committee, much has changed in terms of proliferation threats. While we welcome the ongoing diplomatic process to achieve a peaceful solution on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, we underline the crucial importance for the DPRK to demonstrate genuine political will and to undertake concrete steps for a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.
Verification is key in building and maintaining trust in the nonproliferation field. In light of this, Romania welcomes the work of the IAEA in monitoring the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The continuation of the full and rigorous implementation of the Plan of Action, based on the letter and spirit of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 will foster the regional and international security and will build trust among parties. We encourage Iran for an early ratification of the Additional Protocol, considering its potential of building confidence and ensure sustainability.

On the establishment of a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Free Zone, we consider the 1995 Resolution valid until its goals and objectives are achieved, in line with the 2010 Action Plan. A meaningful conference to achieve this aim, requires dialogue and building confidence among the stakeholders in the region on the basis of arrangements freely agreed upon by them.

Mr. Chairman,

Another measure that would significantly strengthen the non-proliferation regime is achieving the universal implementation of the IAEA’s Additional Protocol (AP), the de facto standard for verifying the NPT safeguards obligations. Romania reaffirms its full support for the IAEA and its work to monitor compliance with nuclear safeguards around the world and the need to ensure that it has both the resources and authority to fulfill its job. The Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with the Additional Protocol represent the international verification standard. Romania steps up its efforts to promote adherence to the Additional Protocol and its universality.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear terrorism is among the main challenges to international peace and security, one that calls for our collective efforts and concerted actions at all levels to prevent the risk of nuclear material falling out of regulatory control.

In this sense, a full implementation of the obligations underscored by the landmark agreement, the UN Security Council 1540 Resolution, by all states is essential. We encourage all states that have not yet done so to accede to the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, to ratify the amendment to the Convention of Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and participate in the global nuclear security regime.
As we have already stated in the general debate, we share the view that regional and international cooperation is vital to ensure nuclear security and prevent cross-border terrorist activities. Therefore, Romania welcomes the unique value of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) within the global nuclear security architecture, in supporting partners building national capabilities to combat terrorism.

In line with our commitments to promote nuclear security at national, regional and international level, Romania conducted, in 2017, in close collaboration with the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), a regional and practical exercise, Olympus Reloaded, focused on nuclear forensics, as a follow-up to Exercise Olympus in 2016. We strongly believe that such events offer the necessary tools to face the threat of nuclear terrorism as they underscore the essential role of preparedness.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, I would like to reiterate Romania’s readiness to work closely with all States Parties to NPT to achieve progress in strengthening the non-proliferation system and to ensure the global peace and security.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.