Statement by Romania within the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
New York, 29 April – 10 May 2019
General Debate

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, allow me to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, my most sincere congratulations for your appointment at the helm of the last Preparatory Committee before the 2020 Review Conference and assure you of Romania’s full support in achieving a successful, comprehensive and balanced outcome.

With the understanding that Romania fully shares the assessments from the EU statement, allow me to highlight a few issues of particular importance for my country.

I would like from the very beginning to deliver a message of strong support for the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. As we approach the 50th anniversary of its entry into force, the international community should applaud NPT’s remarkable success.

In the last 50 years, the world has become a safer place first and foremost as a result of NPT’s contribution to strengthening international peace, stability and security. Its relevant provisions remain the way forward in achieving nuclear disarmament and in benefiting nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes.

Romania remains committed to upholding and preserving the integrity of the NPT and we call on all Parties to show responsibility and to work together towards the goal of achieving its universality and enhancing its implementation across all its three pillars, which are equally important and mutually reinforcing.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPT continues the represent our best tool for the global efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the principle of undiminished security for all. Accomplishing tangible results on nuclear disarmament requires cooperation, but also a careful consideration of the international security environment. In our view, a viable road to nuclear disarmament should concentrate first and foremost on improving the strategic context. For providing a real and lasting progress on disarmament, it is of
utmost importance that all Parties work together towards a security environment more conducive to arms control and disarmament.

Romania is further committed to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, achieved in an effective, verifiable and irreversible manner, through a progressive approach, based on pragmatic and realistic measures that could provide real and lasting progress on disarmament.

The main achievable measures towards this end should be the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT).

We should also continue to advocate the indispensable role of the IAEA with regard to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Romania will continue to strongly support IAEA’s activities and to substantially and constructively contribute to its work.

It is our view that the safeguards system has to continue to perform to the best of its capacity. We therefore encourage all countries to respond in a constructive and mutual beneficial way to Agency’s needs and contribute their share in order to strengthen the effectiveness and the efficiency of safeguards implementation.

Romania has stepped up its efforts to promote the universalization without delay of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, together with the Additional Protocols.

From our perspective, IAEA’s approach, independent and professional, in the verification and monitoring of nuclear-related commitments of Member States, deserves recognition and further support.

Mr. Chairman,

As a country which highly values the notion of „peace through diplomacy”, Romania strongly believes in the power of effective multilateralism and international cooperation.

Romania remains deeply committed to upholding and, at the same time, to fully implementing, in letter and spirit, the current arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation agreements.

Unfortunately, in recent years, the international security architecture has been under severe strain.

Alongside its Allies and partners, Romania has repeatedly addressed its concerns about Russian non-compliance with the INF. However, we have received no credible response, and we have not seen any sign of genuine transparency. Romania has therefore fully supported the US decision to suspend its obligations under the INF Treaty. We call on Russia to use the remaining time to return to full and verifiable compliance with the INF Treaty, and also with other non-proliferation and arms control agreements of equal importance for the European and international security.

Mr. Chairman,
We continue to be seriously concerned with the violation of international obligations and the development of nuclear and ballistic programs, which threaten international peace and security and the global non-proliferation regime.

Within this context, we continue to underline the need to have concrete and credible steps from the DPRK to demonstrate genuine political will for a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

Mr. Chairman,

Even it is not easy to predict what will happen in 2020, together, we should be able to manage properly a successful PrepCom, taking stock, honestly, of the progress made and using this evaluation as a basis for tangible follow-up steps, by reaffirming the validity and importance of the 2010 Action Plan.

We expect that constructive approaches and a consensual spirit will prevail during this session of the Preparatory committee and pave the way for a positive outcome at the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Let me conclude by reiterating once again Romania’s conviction that is in our responsibility to ensure that the NPT will continue the stand the test of time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman