Statement by Romania at 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
Cluster II

Mr. Chairman,

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

NPT remains the key multilateral instrument for strengthening international peace, security and stability. The world is today a safer place thanks to the NPT. However, the NPT regime continues to face multiple challenges and threats, including cases of non-compliance, which must be addressed in a resolute manner in order to maintain its credibility and effectiveness.

While we welcome the diplomatic demarches for a peaceful solution on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, we call upon the DPRK to return to the NPT community and the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and to sign and ratify the CTBT, to achieve a comprehensive solution for the regional security and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

Romania applauds the work done by the IAEA in the implementation of the JCPOA. We also reiterate the need for Iran to implement all its commitments in accordance to the JCPOA, to cooperate fully with the IAEA and to ratify the Additional Protocol. We also emphasize the need of refraining from any actions inconsistent with the UNSCR 2231.

On the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, 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 confidence building among stakeholders in the region on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region.

Mr. Chairman,

Consistent with our commitment to strengthening the non-proliferation regime, Romania continues to advocate for the universalization and fully implementation of
other relevant instruments such as the Hague Code of Conduct, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), and the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM/A).

Furthermore, Romania has used every opportunity to promote the universal adherence to IAEA’s Additional Protocol.

Let me once again reaffirm Romania’s 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.

As a concrete contribution to multilateralism and in support for IAEA’s activity, as Presidency of the Council of the EU, Romania organized this year, in Vienna, a workshop on “Nuclear Security: From Political Commitment to Practical Implementation”. The aim was to promote awareness on the nuclear security aspects related to the benefits of nuclear applications, to deepen the global nuclear security dialogue and to encourage an open exchange of views on lessons learned and best practices.

Cooperation is also important for strengthening the non-proliferation regime, and Romania acknowledges the value of initiatives such as the GICNT or the PSI, within the global nuclear security architecture, in supporting partners building national capabilities to combat terrorism.

In line with the Nuclear Security Summits commitments to strengthen national capabilities for nuclear forensics investigations, Romania has also taken a series of steps, which include: establishing and equipping the first National Nuclear Forensics Laboratory of Romania, developing a National Nuclear Forensics Library, elaborating a National Response Plan to Illicit Trafficking of Nuclear & Radioactive Material and Sharing the national experience and expertise with neighboring countries.

Regional and international cooperation is vital to ensure nuclear security, which is why developing joint activities, training sessions and information sharing among governments are all necessary to prevent cross-border terrorist activities. Therefore, Romania fully supports the objectives of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and welcomes the unique value that brings to the global nuclear security architecture and supporting partners in building national capabilities to combat terrorism. In line with our commitments to promote nuclear security at national, regional and international level, Romania, in close collaboration with GICNT, conducted, in 2016 and 2017 a series of regional and practical exercises, called Olympus and Olympus Reloaded.

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.

Thank you.