Statement of

ROMANIA

at the First Session of the Preparatory Committee

for the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

(Viena, 30 April – 11 May 2012)

Cluster 3 Specific issue

Mr. Chairman,

Romania fully associates itself with the statement delivered yesterday on behalf of the European Union. Therefore, I would like to limit my statement to a few points of national.

The NPT remains one of the pillars of international security and the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We believe that its future viability relies on the full implementation of obligations assumed by all States Parties in the 2010 Action Plan as well as on the process of achieving its universality.

Energy is essential for human development and we are convinced that nuclear energy has the potential to be a reliable, sustainable and environmentally friendly energy source, provided that any use of nuclear energy is beneficial, responsible and sustainable.

Romania has a significant civil nuclear programme, consisting of 2 operational reactors in Cernavoda, two more under construction and plans to build another NPP. There are also a research reactor converted from HEU to LEU and a reactor in decommissioning process.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We believe that events post-Fukushima have demonstrated to the world that the IAEA plays the crucial central role in ensuring a safe, secure and proliferation-free nuclear future.

Last year, Romania organized workshops and training courses in the field of nuclear security and safety, with the special emphasis on prevention of the illicit trafficking of nuclear materials. Romania expressed an interest to cooperate with the IAEA on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, more specifically on the technology for cancer detection and treatment.

The Washington and Seoul Nuclear Security Summits produced a large international consensus on the value and necessity to remove material and convert facilities and processes to use LEU.

With regard to the minimization of the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU), Romania converted the TRIGA research reactor in Pitesti from HEU to low enriched uranium (LEU) within the framework of the IAEA Technical Cooperation and with the involvement of experts from the Agency and the US Department of Energy. The process of conversion was completed successfully in 2006, being the first one worldwide with respect to a TRIGA reactor.

Before this achievement, in 2003, Romania repatriated to Russian Federation the fresh HEU under the auspices of the Tripartite Initiative (USA-Russian Federation-IAEA). In June 2009 Romania successfully repatriated by air the spent HEU to the Russian Federation with American financial support. Romania became the third country to be stripped out of HEU among the countries participating in the IAEA program.

Romania accepted the IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) missions in 1997 and 2002 at the Cernavoda Nuclear Power Plant and other major nuclear facilities.
Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Romania emphasizes the importance of the interface between nuclear security and nuclear safety. Against this background it took part in the EU "stress tests" aimed to assess the reliability of the nuclear power plants located on the territory of the EU member states and some neighboring countries.

On the security dimension of the assessment, the Nuclear Power Plant in Cernavoda and the regulatory body sent out, within the specified deadline, the report on the implementation of the "stress tests" for the plant. Romania received in March 2012 an EU peer review mission.

Romanian relevant institutions make sure that all possible threats are duly assessed and applied for the physical protection of nuclear facilities.

Currently, the Romanian regulatory body and the US Department of Energy are implementing a bilateral agreement on upgrading the safety of radioactive sources and nuclear material in Romania, with a focus on the physical protection of "Horia Hulubei" Institute (Magurele). There is also a project to upgrade the physical protection of radioactive sources used in hospitals and other medical centers.

Mr. Chairman,

Romania has a tradition of robust engagement in international cooperation projects and reaffirms the will to share its own expertise and experience in the field of nuclear security and safety.

Last year Romania contributed with 500,000 EURO to projects designated to secure the Chernobyl facility in Ukraine (Government Decision 1060/October 19, 2011).

During Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in March 2012, Romania assumed several unilateral Commitments in the fields of nuclear security and nuclear safety, as follows:

- Invitation of an IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory service (IPPAS) mission with the aim to certify that the national practices in the field of nuclear security and safety (with respect to the Nuclear Power Plant in Cernavoda) are in conformity with the most recent international standards, as well as to identify practical modalities of improvement, if necessary.

- Romania stands ready to provide assistance / expertise as "lessons learned" from the national experience in the conversion of research reactors from HEU to LEU, repatriation of HEU in the countries of origin and safety of radioactive sources.

- Romania will make a voluntary contribution to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund.

Monsieur le Président,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Les dangers auxquels nous devons faire face durant de cycle d’examen du TNP sont plus significatifs que jamais. C’est la raison principale pour laquelle nous devons affronter ces provocations et pour ne pas épargner aucun effort afin d’assurer que le processus TNP évolue vers un résultat consensuel. L’échec n’est pas une option. Cette première session de la PrepCom devrait représenter une opportunité pour des discussions constructives, de substance, ayant comme ultime but un processus d’examen de succès du TNP, en 2015.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.