Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (Geneva, 22 April – 3 May 2013)

Statement by HE Ms. Maria Ciobanu, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Cluster III Issues
1 May 2013
Mr. Chairman,

Romania fully associated itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union so I would therefore limit myself to a few national remarks.

Romania took part in the EU "stress tests" aimed to assess the reliability of the nuclear power plants located on the territory of the European Union and some neighbouring countries. The results of the stress test, in Romania, have demonstrated that the two units in Cernavoda nuclear power plant meet the project safety requirements and provide a sufficient safety margins to cope with severe external events. Opportunities for additional improvements have been identified, in order to increase the safety margins.

Romania used the IAEA peer-review services, being one of the countries that have benefited most from this form of external and independent assessment: we have recently received a number of missions: the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRSS), the Operational Safety Team International Probabilistic Safety Assessment Review Team (OSART), the Emergency Preparedness Review (EPR) and the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS). These missions have made a significant contribution to the development of our national nuclear safety framework and practices. We are fully committed to finalizing the implementation of the recommendations resulted from these IAEA missions. In March 2013, Romania has requested support from the IAEA to complete a Nuclear Energy System Assessment (NESAS). We will continue to request IAEA peer-reviews and we are also supporting this process by providing specialists for the peer-reviews organized for other Member States.

As a country with a relevant civilian nuclear program, Romania demonstrated once more its respect for each nation's right to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, provided that non-proliferation, safety and security conditions are entirely met. 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.

In 2011, Romania organized a joint exercise with Bulgaria on radiological emergency protection and intervention (NAUTILUS – 2011), conducted in partnership with Norway and IAEA under the "Safe Nuclear Energy - Regional Excellence Programme for Romania", and hosted as well the CTBTO National Data Centers Evaluation Workshop in Bucharest (October 2011).

In 2011, Romania contributed 500,000 EURO to projects designed to secure the Chernobyl facility in Ukraine.

We are also implementing with the US Department of Energy the 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). A project to upgrade the physical protection of radioactive sources used in hospitals and other medical centers is also under way.

During the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in March 2012, Romania assumed several unilateral commitments in the fields of nuclear safety and security, which are now already fulfilled or under implementation: we have already received an International Physical Protection Advisory service (IPPAS) mission in 2012; we stand ready to provide assistance as "lessons learned" from the national experience in the conversion of research reactors from HEU (highly enriched Uranium) to LEU (low enriched Uranium), Romania being the first country to successfully complete the conversion of a
TRIGA research reactor in 2006; Romania can provide expertise in the field of HEU repatriation, being the third country to successfully complete, in 2009, the repatriation by air of HEU to the Russian Federation, its country of origin; Romania will make a voluntary contribution to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund.

Romania is prepared to work with all participating states to the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) process in order to maximise the outcomes of the 2014 NSS, and to identify the wise follow-up or continuation of this process beyond 2014.

Mr. Chairman,

Romania is among the states which believe that nuclear power can play a key role to help ensure security of energy supply and reduce carbon emissions. Nuclear energy can also provide economic benefits and consumers with cost-effective electricity, as well as, by developing new nuclear projects, a positive impact on sustainable economic growth and creating jobs.

Romania would like to reassure the international community of its full support and cooperation in the framework of the Agency’s continuous effort to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in a proliferation free, secure and safe manner. In this respect, we strongly believe that this PrepCom will bring its contribution to the strengthening of the current global nuclear architecture under the current review process.

To conclude, I would like to assure you once again, Mr. Chairman, of Romania’s commitment to support you in your endeavor to make this second PrepCom an effective step towards a successful and valuable conclusion of the current revision cycle in 2015.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.