Statement
by H.E. Ambassador Cristian ISTRATE,
Permanent Representative of Romania in Vienna,
at the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference
Cluster III
New York – 5 May 2014
Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor during this session of the PrepCom, I would like to thank you for the excellent work done so far.

Romania fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I would therefore limit myself to a few brief points of national relevance.

Romania reaffirms its support for the inalienable right of all States Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in accordance with Articles I, II and III of the Treaty. At the same time, it is important to keep underlining that the use of nuclear materials and technologies must remain exclusively for peaceful purposes, based on the IAEA integrated safeguards system and fully respecting the IAEA highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation. For this reason, the IAEA plays a crucial role in ensuring a safe, secure and proliferation-free use of nuclear energy.

Developments over the past several years have underscored, once again, the critical role of the Additional Protocol and the comprehensive safeguards agreements, which must become universal and establish a solid verification standard, strengthening the IAEA's capacity to detect and respond to non-compliance. In this respect, we would welcome further development of the State Level Concept as a valuable tool for the implementation of the Treaty, which would help create an environment that encourages peaceful nuclear cooperation.

Romania is a strong supporter of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme and of the statutory right of any Member State to be eligible for TC programmes. TC is the way in which the Agency promotes the application of nuclear-related techniques to eradicate poverty and hunger worldwide, but also the way in which it helps Member States with civilian nuclear power programmes in consolidating capacity-building throughout the entire nuclear fuel cycle, while maintaining the IAEA standards of safety and security. In this regard I'd like to mention that, in September 2013, Romania and the IAEA signed the Country Programme Framework for 2014-2019, which includes 5 main areas of activities: strengthening management in the field of radioactive waste; management system optimization of the Romanian regulatory body; workforce development in the nuclear field; population health, as well as food and agriculture.

We want to underline the need for growing transparency and trust between countries using peaceful nuclear energy in order to meet the highest nuclear security, safety and non-proliferation requirements, in full compliance with all relevant international agreements, and encourage the IAEA Member States to host peer reviews and follow-up missions in the field of nuclear safety and security. In this regard, we welcome and support all the initiatives undertaken so far in this respect - the Peaceful Uses Initiative, the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GCINT) and the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) process. We also urge all States that have not yet done so, to become party, as soon as possible, to all international legal instruments related to nuclear safety, security and nonproliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

In 2012, at the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in Seoul, Romania announced a number of unilateral commitments. I am pleased to confirm that Romania fulfilled all these commitments: we hosted an IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service Mission; we offered a voluntary contribution to the Nuclear Security Fund of the International Atomic Energy Agency; we provided assistance and
expertise, based on the national experience in the field of conversion from highly enriched uranium to low enriched uranium.

Building on what we have achieved so far in the implementation of the NSS commitments, we identified further commitments during the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in the Hague: we will make an additional financial contribution to the Nuclear Security Fund of the International Atomic Energy Agency; we will receive, in May 2014, an IAEA International Nuclear Security Advisory Service mission; we are going to extend an invitation for an IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service follow-up mission, in 2016.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite all tremendous challenges, the NPT remains the key element of the global non-proliferation regime and an essential instrument of our collective security. The three interconnected pillars of the Treaty offer the adequate framework for preserving and strengthening international peace and security, while, at the same time, allowing benefits to all from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Romania continues to fulfill all its NPT obligations and remains committed to the full implementation of the 2010 RevCon Action Plan.

We reaffirm our full support and cooperation in the framework of IAEA’s continuous efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a safe and secure manner. In this respect we strongly believe that this PrepCom will bring its valuable contribution to advance the implementation of the NPT and to contribute to the strengthening of the current global nuclear architecture.

To conclude, I would like to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of Romania’s commitment to support you in your endeavour to make this PrepCom an effective step towards a successful 2015 RevCon.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.