Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Romania fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, and welcomes this opportunity to reaffirm, in national capacity, its commitment to promoting nuclear nonproliferation.

Let me stress from the beginning my country’s belief that a strong nonproliferation regime contributes fundamentally to international peace and security. The IAEA’s system of safeguards is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and all cases of noncompliance must be addressed in a resolute way in order to maintain the credibility and effectiveness of the NPT regime.

The nuclear and ballistic military programs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are blatant violations of the relevant UN SC Resolutions, being one of the current major threats to international peace and security. We condemn these actions in the strongest possible terms. We urge the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to comply fully, unconditionally and immediately with all its international obligations. The destabilizing actions of the DPRK confirm the urgent need to further strengthen the NPT and for the CTBT to enter into force as soon as possible.

Regarding the Zone Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East, serious security and political challenges remains but progress still could be achieved. Direct dialogue and arrangements freely arrived at by all the countries in the region are the only credible way
to move forward with this project, the states in the regions having the ownership for this process.

We welcome the progress made in the implementation of the JCPOA provisions, and, in its support, Romania made a voluntary financial contribution to the Agency’s extra-budgetary fund for the IAEA’s verification activities in Iran. The JCPOA is an important non-proliferation instrument and a successful, multilateral endeavor, of which all provisions must be fully implemented.

Mr. Chairman,

The threat of nuclear terrorism is one of the significant challenges to international peace and security. This is due to issues that are of great concern to us all, such as the global expansion of terrorism through the emergence of ISIS, and the unsettled regional conflicts which ultimately foster challenges such as illicit trafficking, including of radioactive or nuclear material. Hence, our strong belief that in the field of nuclear security there is no room for complacency.

Cyber-attacks are yet another threat to all of us here today. In a society that relies heavily on information technology, it is inevitable that our nuclear security depends on the measures that we are able to take in order to ensure solid information systems.

Against this backdrop of ever-increasing security threats at global, regional and national level, the challenges posed by nuclear terrorism are demanding more and more concerted actions at all levels.

The IAEA has the central role in coordinating the global efforts and strengthening the international nuclear security architecture. The entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (aCPPNM) on 8 May 2016 is an essential step in strengthening nuclear security.

GICNT

We therefore acknowledge the need for consolidating regional cooperation in the field of
nuclear security, including through developing joint activities and training, as well as information exchanges and an increased focus on cooperation on border security and detection.

To this end, Romania fully supports international efforts aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism, and welcomes the role played by the **Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT)** in this respect. In accordance with our efforts to promote nuclear security at national, regional and international level, Romania, in cooperation with GICNT and INTERPOL, organized the regional Exercise OLYMPUS, on 19-21 October 2016, in Bucharest. The scope was to discuss challenges during a nuclear security incident, and to identify strategies and best practices for overcoming these challenges.

As follow-up to Exercise Olympus, Romania is planning to organize a **practical exercise focused exclusively on nuclear forensics**. The event will be organized in close collaboration with the GICNT, and will be dedicated to nuclear forensics experts from the region.

**PSI**

Furthermore, on 16-18 November 2016, **Romania hosted a Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) regional workshop**, which sought to increase participating States’ understanding of regional proliferation trends, and increase regional understanding of, and commitment to, upholding the PSI Statement of Interdiction Principles.

**NSS**

The substantial results of the 2016 **Nuclear Security Summit** brought us decisively closer to our common goal of securing nuclear material and thus preventing nuclear terrorism. Its Final Communique and the five Plans of Action serve as guidelines for taking forward the nuclear security agenda while the **Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG)** will maintain the nuclear security issue high on the international agenda.

As part of its contribution to the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit, Romania pledged a series of new unilateral commitments towards consolidating nuclear security, all of which are in
process of being implemented:

☑ Romania contributed with voluntary financial contribution to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund;

☑ The Romanian Authority for the Control of Nuclear Activities (CNCAN) has successfully improved the security for the transport of nuclear and radioactive material by implementing a pilot system for tracking the movement of radioactive sources including their transport;

☑ In 2017, Romania will develop and implement a national nuclear security culture-training course, suitable for the personnel of all organizations with responsibilities for nuclear security.

Nuclear forensics

Another NSS commitment refers to strengthening the national capabilities for nuclear forensics investigations.

As such, national scientists from "Horia Hulubei" National Institute for R&D in Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH) successfully developed nuclear forensics by adapting/repurposing the existing national capabilities to support nuclear forensics analyses.

Our nuclear forensics experts are actively involved in the activities of the Nuclear Forensics International Technical Working Group (ITWG), such as the ITWG annual meeting, the Galaxy Serpent 2 Exercise, and the Collaborative Materials Exercise (CMX-5). Additionally, the Data Review Meeting of CMX-5 was held in April 2017 in Bucharest.

As outcome of the rapid development of its nuclear forensics capabilities, Romania stands ready to share its experience and expertise with other states in the region. As a result, two Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the neighboring countries of the
Republic of Moldova and Hungary.

Furthermore, IFIN-HH has been invited to collaborate with international organizations, and thus two more agreements – a Practical Agreement with IAEA, and an Amendment to the existing Collaboration Agreement with JRC dedicated to strengthening scientific collaboration between JRC Karlsruhe and IFIN-HH – will be signed in the near future.

Mr. Chairman,

Romania would like to assure you and the international community of its full support and cooperation in our common efforts to promote nuclear nonproliferation.

Thank you.