



*Check against delivery*

## **STATEMENT**

*by*

**H. E. Ambassador Mihnea Motoc,  
Permanent Representative of Romania  
to the United Nations**

**Security Council Open Debate  
on  
Non-Proliferation  
of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

*New York, April 22, 2004*

**Mr. President,**

Romania aligned herself to the statement that will be delivered later on by the Permanent Representative of Ireland on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I would like to make the following remarks:

First, to appreciate the opportunity presented by this open debate, and its timeliness and usefulness in our overall efforts to consensualize the adoption of this resolution and to improve conditions for its later sound implementation.

The proliferation threat gained a new, gloomier dimension: the prospect of non-state actors seeking to acquire and use WMD.

**Present day security and stability are seriously challenged, both globally and regionally, by the risk associated to WMD proliferation.**

*State and non-state actors proliferation routes are now starting to merge. **The international community is confronted today with a consolidated network of proliferators established between states and/or entities located in regions marked by instability and armed conflicts.***

***The possibility for terrorist organizations to acquire elements or even systems of weapons of mass destruction is largely recognized today as among if not the most dangerous threats the international community is facing.***

There are no panacea nor "one-size-fits-all" policies to counter the threat posed by WMD proliferation. A number of tools are at the disposal of the international community. All are necessary: none is sufficient in itself.

Spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons has been successfully limited by international disarmament and non-proliferation multilateral agreements. But the new phenomenon, intimately inter-connected with terrorism, is unfortunately not covered by these treaties.

The Security Council has the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. Past experience of dealing with new magnified threats such as terrorism shows that prevention is always better than the cure. It is therefore timely for the Security Council to address in an appropriate manner this new threat by filling in the existing gap in the international treaties. This one threat the Council can not afford to overlook and act upon.

***The resolution will bring a fundamental contribution to the efforts of all responsible members of the international community in countering threats stemming from WMD and Ballistic Missiles Proliferation, especially from its most dangerous form pursued by non-states entities and terrorist groups and organizations. For this reason Romania decided to co-sponsor the UN Security Council Resolution***

The resolution is indeed a platform inducing greater responsibility for all states in terms of reducing the proliferation risks. It can only create at the end of the day a better and more secure environment for all of us.

It asks Member States, without discrimination, to enact and enforce appropriate legislation to prevent proliferation of WMD, including criminal and civil penalties for

violations of export control regulations. It also requires establishment of physical protection measures and effective controls over related materials.

***For such a preventive approach to work the need for international cooperation is capital. It has to do with the establishment of national authorities, with the adoption and enforcement of domestic relevant legislation. These would help bring about a comprehensive international network against proliferation.***

While addressing a very specific and focused issue, the resolution reaffirms the need for all Member States to fulfill their obligations in relation to arms control and disarmament and upholds the multilateral treaties.

***The efforts for combating proliferation have to be deep-rooted in the domestic implementation by States of their obligations and the permanent enforcement of adequate related legislation on matters such as export controls, the physical protection, secure manipulation and transfers of sensitive materials***

The implementation of the resolution will not affect the obligation undertaken by state parties to international treaties nor the statutory responsibilities of the IAEA and the OPCW. Efforts to prevent proliferation, undertaken at national, regional or international level, through an enhanced coordination, do not hamper the transfers of materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.

The critical importance of the resolution and of its contents was demonstrated by the extensive consultations that have taken place in and outside the Council. They have been complemented by a transparent and constructive interaction with individual member states, regional and political groups. Most of the concerns that have been expressed during our deliberations are already reflected in the text.

We are satisfied that all these strenuous efforts made possible a substantial improvement of the draft and clarified how we can ensure the materialization of its goal.

The objective of the resolution is very important. If our aspirations are to get rid of the scourge of WMD proliferation and prevent self-destruction, we have to act accordingly ***in a united and responsible manner***

Thank You, Mr. President.