

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ION ARITON, MINISTER OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND  
BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF ROMANIA**

**VIENNA , 20-24 June 2011**

Esteemed Director General of IAEA,

Esteemed President,

Esteemed Ministers,

Esteemed Audience,

On behalf of the Romanian Government, please allow me to express my deepest compassion for the victims of the recent natural disaster in Japan and my complete solidarity with the Japanese people in its efforts of economic recovery in the aftermath of the disaster caused by the extreme phenomena of March 2011. We closely watch the evolution of the situation in Japan and we ensure you that we fully appreciate the efforts taken to diminish the consequences of the disaster.

Since December 1996, once with the commissioning of the first Cernavoda Unit, the first history page was written in the Romanian nuclear energy sector. Currently, in Cernavoda, there are two operating units of 705 Mwe each, which cover approximately 20% of Romania's energy needs.

Last year, Romania received the approval of the European Commission to finalize the construction of Cernavoda Units 3 and 4, units which are presently in conservation.

The Romanian Regulatory Body and also other ministries and national agencies which bear responsibility and accountability in the nuclear field, ensure the regulation related activities, thus observing the implementation with priority of the IAEA standards concerning nuclear safety.

The measures of nuclear safety and security are aligned to the European safety regulations which are extensively debated within WENRA (Western European Nuclear Regulators Associations). Before entry into force, these measures are subject to an extensive consultation process at national level, thus ensuring both the alignment to the AIEA standards and their understanding by the organizations that are to implement them.

SN Nuclearelectrica SA, the owner of the Cernavoda Units, as a WANO (World Association of Nuclear Operators) member and upon the request of the Romanian Regulatory Body, has analyzed and assessed the ways to improve Cernavoda NPP emergency response capacity based on the WANO recommendations elaborated following the Fukushima Daiichi accident. These analyses have focused on:

- The power plant's response capacity to severe events that go beyond DBA (design basis accident);
- Response capacity to a complete loss of energy supply sources;
- The capacity to ensure cooling of the spent fuel bay in case of loosing normal cooling facilities;
- Response capacity to on-site and off-site flooding;
- Response capacity to fire burst-out simultaneously or following some external events such as earthquakes, storms, etc;
- In the aftermath of these analyses a series of improvements have emerged, such as:
- The elaboration of new emergency preparedness procedures in the case of complete loosing of energy supply source or cooling capacity and removal of decay heat from the spent fuel bay-**achieved activity**;
- Ensuring supplementary energy supply sources by means of available mobile diesels-**achieved activity**;
- Issuance of specific severe accidents response procedures (SAMG – Sever Accident Management Guide) – **achieved activity** – as well as personnel training for their implementation-**activity in full progress**;
- Identification of new project changes which will enhance the number of available options to ensure reactor power control, fuel cooling and avoidance of radioactive materials emissions, thus protecting the population and environment-**activity in full progress**.

Within the cooperation frame with the IAEA, Romania acknowledges the benefits gained by the national nuclear program throughout time as a support provided by the Agency.

A tight connection of the Romanian institutions and IAEA is maintained by involving Romanian specialists in the different technical working groups of the Agency, as well as by actively participating in activities organized by the Agency.

The regulations in the field of nuclear safety as well as the national nuclear policy will be re-assessed following the Fukushima Daichii events. It is obvious that this situation has a direct impact on the standards of utilizing nuclear energy in a safe manner and will generate re-assessment of the nuclear safety concept as a top and without doubt priority.

The Romanian authorities express their availability and willingness to continue their involvement in future actions of the Agency with respect to analysing the consequences of the Fukushima Daichii event and developing standardization in the nuclear field whose results can only lead to a real added value to the nuclear sector and can increase public acceptance in the field.

There is no doubt that the vision on nuclear safety and security culture will add a new connotation to the economic and political domains, as well as to the public life and this aspect will be directly reflected in the Romanian legislation through its alignment to the IAEA standards.

From the point of view of the Romanian energy development strategy, the Romanian Government will continue to support the civil nuclear program by adopting all the necessary measures to align the nuclear field related legislation to the international standards, and both the operating objectives and unfolding projects to respect the requirements of the nuclear safety standards and the subsequent assessment criteria.

Before closing my speech, I would like to wish to all the participants in this 4 day Ministerial Meeting to have a successful exchange of expertise, ideas, efficient and constructive analysis in order to identify the best solutions and measures to ensure the further development of nuclear civil applications.

Thank you!