

**Statement of**

**ROMANIA**

**at the Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety**

*(15-16 December 2012)*

**Your Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

First of all, I would like to extend Romania's high appreciation to the Government of Japan for organizing and hosting, in co-sponsorship with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, which reunites a vast majority of states and several international organizations. Japan is recognized worldwide today as one of the global leaders in peaceful nuclear technology, and hosting this commendable event in the Fukushima Prefecture is also very significant in the framework of the international efforts to strengthen nuclear safety around the world.

I would like to assure the Co-Presidents of the meeting, HE Mr. Koichiro Gemba, Minister for Foreign affairs of Japan, and HE Dr. Maximus Ongkili, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia, of the full support of the Romanian delegation in our efforts to make this conference a success.

**Distinguished delegates,**

2011 and 2012 have been difficult years for the nuclear energy, especially after the Fukushima Daiichi accident and the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. I would like to use this opportunity to express once again sympathy to the people and Government of Japan, and to echo admiration for the remarkable determination they displayed in very difficult circumstances. We salute the outstanding achievements reported by Japan in stabilizing and recovering since the time of the accident.

We believe that events post-Fukushima Daiichi have demonstrated to the world that the IAEA plays the crucial central role in ensuring a safe, secure and proliferation-free nuclear future.

Romania fully supports the efforts of the Agency and of the entire international community to draw lessons from the Fukushima Daiichi accident and to enhance the level of nuclear safety worldwide, a key issue in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, adopted by the 2011 General Conference, is an important step towards the necessary strengthening of nuclear safety worldwide. We believe that the collective commitment is essential for the realization of the provisions of the Action Plan, and we are grateful to the IAEA Secretariat for the recent update on the progress made so far in the implementation of activities arising from the Action Plan.

Romania fully supports the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, and will remain vigilant of any new developments in this area. Our country took part in the EU "stress tests" aimed to assess the reliability of the nuclear power plants located on the territory of the EU member states, and some neighbouring countries.

## **Your Excellencies,**

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

Romania has presented the results of safety assessments performed post-Fukushima at the Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant in the national report on the European stress tests, in the national report under the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and in the conclusions and recommendations of the European stress test peer-review held in March 2012.

Romania used the IAEA peer-review services, being one of the countries that have benefited most from this form of external, independent assessment.

We have received IRRS (Integrated Regulatory Review Service), OSART (Operational Safety Team), IPSART (International Probabilistic Safety Assessment Review Team), EPREV (Emergency Preparedness Review) and IPPAS (International Physical Protection Advisory Service) missions which have made a significant contribution to the development of our national nuclear safety framework and practices.

We are committed to finalizing the implementation of the recommendations from the 2011 IRRS mission and we have a follow-up planned for 2014. Following the IPPAS missions from 1997 and 2002 at the Cernavodă NPP and other nuclear facilities, a third IPPAS mission was invited to Romania between 26 November and 7 December 2012.

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.

Romania has a tradition of proactive engagement in international cooperation projects and reaffirms the will to share its own expertise and experience in the field of nuclear security and safety.

Last year, 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, as well as the CTBT International Data Centre workshop.

In 2011, Romania contributed 500.000 EURO to projects designed to secure the Chernobyl facility in Ukraine.

During the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in March 2012, Romania assumed several unilateral commitments in the fields of nuclear safety and security, as follows:

- Invitation of an IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory service (IPPAS) mission with the aim to certify that the national practices in the field of nuclear security and safety (with respect to the Nuclear Power Plant in Cernavoda) are in conformity with the most recent international standards, as well as to identify practical modalities of improvement, if necessary.
- Romania stands 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;
- Furthermore, 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.

**Distinguished delegates,**

Romania actively participated to the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and to the Preparatory Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, held in Vienna, from 27 to 31 August 2012. Romania is fully aware on the relevance of the appropriate implementation of the Convention on Nuclear Safety and is ready to work with other state parties towards the implementation of the conclusions from the above mentioned meeting.

Finally, Romania would like to reassure the international community of our full support and cooperation in the framework of the Agency's continuous effort to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this respect, we strongly believe that this conference will bring its contribution to the strengthening of the current global nuclear architecture.

I thank you, Mr President.