

**Statement by H.E. Sorin Encuțescu
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**International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts
Vienna, 1-5 July 2013**

*Mr. President,
Director General,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,*

First of all, I would like to extend Romania's highest appreciation to the **International Atomic Energy Agency** for organising the "International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts", the first ministerial meeting on nuclear security which is open to all 159 IAEA Member States.

Allow me also to warmly thank HE **Dr. János Martonyi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary**, for all his efforts as President of the meeting, and to assure him of Romania's full support in his endeavour of making this conference a success.

Distinguished delegates,

In the context of the recent challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the constant danger of nuclear terrorism, Romania has taken every opportunity, at bilateral and multilateral level, to emphasize the **importance of observing the highest standards in the field of nuclear security and non-proliferation.**

It is well established that **responsibility for nuclear security rests with each individual State.** Therefore, **we all have the responsibility** to establish appropriate systems and to take necessary measures to prevent, detect, deter and respond to malicious acts involving nuclear material and highly radioactive sources. In this context, we strongly believe that **the Agency has the central role** in mainstreaming the international effort in strengthening the nuclear security at a global level.

Romania fully supports the **IAEA's nuclear security programme** and commends the Agency for its **tireless efforts to strengthen international cooperation and improve nuclear security worldwide**, also in cooperation with other international organizations and initiatives, such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism or the 1540 Committee. We underline, in this context, the role that **international processes and initiatives, including Nuclear Security Summits,** could play in facilitating synergy and cooperation in the area of nuclear security.

Efficient physical protection is of highest importance in the prevention of the nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists or accidental misuse, and in the protection of nuclear facilities against unauthorized use and malicious acts. Therefore, Romania encourages all States that have not yet done so, to **become party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment.**

We believe that IAEA's **Nuclear Security Peer Reviews** are essential tools to assist Member States in evaluating their nuclear security systems. In this regard, **Romania received, in 2012, an International Physical Protection Advisory Services (IPPAS) mission** with the aim to certify that the national practices in the field of nuclear security and safety are in conformity with the most recent international standards, as well as to identify practical modalities of improvement. 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. In March 2013, Romania has requested support from the IAEA to complete a Nuclear Energy System Assessment (NESA).

The continuous **improvement of nuclear security is one of the strategic objectives of our national nuclear strategy**. We are currently making efforts to ensure full alignment of our national regulations with the latest IAEA Nuclear Security Recommendations. We recognize the importance of having a formally established long-term sustainability programme to support the continuous effectiveness of the physical protection regime and we will address this as part of our national strategy for nuclear safety. We are also planning to devote more resources to promoting nuclear security culture at national level, in all relevant organizations.

As a country with a relevant civilian nuclear program, Romania demonstrated once more its respect for each nation's right to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, under the conditions that non-proliferation, safety and security conditions **are entirely met**. Romania has a tradition of robust engagement in international cooperation projects and **reaffirms the readiness to share its own expertise and experience in the field of nuclear security and safety**.

In 2011, 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**, and hosted as well the National Data Centers Evaluation Workshop in Bucharest (October 2011).

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

We are also implementing with the US Department of Energy the bilateral agreement on upgrading the safety of radioactive sources and nuclear material in Romania, with a focus on the **physical protection of "Horia Hulubei" Institute (Magurele)**. There is also a project to upgrade the physical protection of radioactive sources used in hospitals and other medical centers.

Mr. President,

The risk that nuclear or other radioactive material could be diverted from their normal use remains high and represents a serious threat to international peace and security. In this respect, the safe management and **disposal of radioactive waste and spent fuel** are major challenges for the future of nuclear power.

In this respect, the competent institutions in Romania assumed their obligations and responsibility of ensuring that appropriate options for **the management and disposition of nuclear fuel** are provided for. They also work to ensure that using nuclear energy does not create risks for the present and future generations.

Public acceptance is also an important issue and Romania is taking new steps towards increasing **public confidence** in the peaceful nuclear power and non-power applications, especially by increasing the safety and security standards.

Winning back confidence in nuclear power also requires a **firm commitment to safety and security**, as well as openness and transparency by operators, regulators and governments.

Peaceful nuclear research and development programmes in Romania are currently carried out to develop **innovative nuclear systems** aiming to provide increased benefits with respect to economy, nuclear safety and security, radioactive waste and spent fuel management and non-proliferation.

Mr. President,

During the **Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in March 2012**, Romania assumed **several unilateral commitments** in the fields of nuclear security, which are now already finalised or being implemented.

We have already received an **International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS)** mission in 2012.

We stand 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. We are also ready to 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, the country of origin.

Furthermore, 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 a meaningful **follow-up or continuation of this process beyond 2014**, aimed at ensuring full implementation of all commitments undertaken by participating States within the NSS process.

Distinguished delegates,

Romania strongly believes that **nuclear power, used in a safe, secure and proliferation-free manner** can play a key role in helping ensuring security of supply and reducing carbon emissions. Nuclear energy can also provide economic benefits and consumers with cost-effective electricity, while securing, with the development of new nuclear projects, a positive impact on economic growth and creating jobs.

Finally, Romania would like to reassure the international community of its **full support and cooperation**, in the framework of the Agency’s continuous effort to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We would like to reiterate Romania strong believe that this Conference will contribute to the strengthening of the current global nuclear security architecture.

Thank you, Mr President.