

Statement by Romania
At the International Ministerial Conference on
Nuclear Power in the 21st Century

Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation
27–29 June 2013

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for my delegation to be present here today, in Saint Petersburg, joining so many high level distinguished participants from all over the world in our common quest of reaffirming the role and viability of nuclear power in the 21st century.

First of all, I would like to extend Romania's high appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency for organising, in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Nuclear Energy Agency, the "*International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts*", a high level event, following the successful Ministerial Conferences held in Paris, France, in March 2005, and in Beijing, China, in April 2009.

I would also like to convey our warmest thanks to the Russian Federation for hosting this high-level event in the historic and impressive city of St. Petersburg, and I would like to assure the President of the Conference, Mr. Sergey Kirienko of the State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom", of the full support of the Romanian delegation in our efforts to make this conference a success.

Mr. President,

In order to meet our country's energy demand and environmental objectives, the Romanian Government has not changed its commitment to nuclear contribution in the national energy mix and continues to press ahead with the decarbonisation objectives through the deployment of the fullest possible range of low carbon technologies. This could include renewables, carbon capture and storage (CCS) and nuclear power. We are confident that such approach is the most viable one and we are interested in identifying the most efficient market mechanisms for supporting all low carbon technologies, including nuclear, to give equal conditions for these technologies to develop and to attract investors.

Nuclear energy is a clean, affordable and reliable source of energy and has already played a significant role in meeting our energy goals, security of supply, competitiveness and reduction of carbon emission. For our industry, in particular energy intensive industries, stable, predictable and affordable energy prices are of paramount importance for their competitiveness, thereby boosting economic growth and contributing to the creation of new jobs.

Romania, as a member of the European Union, takes part in a common effort to mitigate the energy challenges that we all face in a very complex economic environment. The last ten years have been a period of intense activity in the field of European energy policy, with the three legislative packages adopted at EU level, aiming to develop a new basis for competition and regulation in power and gas markets, while tackling the challenges in the climate change area. All these actions have significant implications on the way energy is produced and consumed.

Among other EU countries, Romania reaffirmed its commitment to collaborate with the purpose of defining the role that nuclear energy can play in the EU's future low carbon energy mix, to help ensure security of supply, and reduce carbon emissions. In our country, the contribution of nuclear energy is and will remain important, while nuclear power remains largely accepted. Nuclear power can also provide economic benefits and supply consumers with cost-effective electricity.

Mr. President,

Romania is currently operating two CANDU Units on the same site, connected to the grid in 1996 and 2007, respectively, showing good operating performance to date. We are currently working to identify proper solutions and mechanisms for establishing the viable business model for the project units 3 and 4 in Cernavoda nuclear power plant, also of CANDU technology. Furthermore, Romania has developed and is currently running both nuclear fuel and heavy water facilities.

The Cernavoda Project has been presented to the European Commission under the Euroatom Treaty and, after an extensive review, the Government of Romania received a positive opinion from the European Commission for the implementation. The project also addresses key lessons learned from the events at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in March 2011.

The Feasibility Study referring to the execution of Cernavoda NPP Units 3 and 4, performed in 2012, demonstrates that the Project is feasible, both technically and economically.

The Romanian Government supports the Cernavoda nuclear project, as part of the energy mix, in order to secure the electricity supply. Moreover, in the current difficult economic environment, in order to support investments in all low carbon emission energy technologies, the Government is considering the electricity market mechanisms and specific financial instruments to back the project, in full compliance with the European competition rules.

The accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has left many countries reviewing their plans to build reactors. It also led to the emergence of the consensus that all the nuclear power plants in the EU, as well as worldwide, should undergo a comprehensive safety and security assessment ("stress test"). Based on the peer-review process and recommendations, the European Union countries have under discussion the consolidation of nuclear legal framework in view of increasing the level of nuclear safety across the EU territories and in neighboring countries.

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

- Firstly, 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;
- Secondly, 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 of 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;
- Thirdly, 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.

The results of the stress test have demonstrated that the two units in Cernavoda nuclear power plant meet the project safety requirements and provide sufficient safety margins to cope with severe external events such as powerful earthquakes, flooding, loss of electricity supply or of cooling system, or a combination of those mentioned. During the assessment, under various crises scenarios, opportunities for additional improvements have been identified, in order to increase the safety margins. A detailed action plan with solutions for implementation is in place, and currently monitored by the Romanian regulator and the European Commission.

Mr. President,

Romania aims not only at promoting the national strategic objectives of accelerating and enlarging the contribution of nuclear energy to global economic development, health and prosperity in our country, but also at maintaining the highest levels of safety and security, at fostering international cooperation, and at disseminating information on nuclear energy to the public.

In the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi accident, **winning back confidence in nuclear power requires a firm commitment to safety and security**, as well as openness and transparency by operators, regulators and governments.

In the context of its plans for continued expansion in the coming decades, Romania remains committed to safe and secure nuclear power as part of its overall energy mix, today and for the future. We fully support any new developments in the area of nuclear safety and security.

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

The development by States of new nuclear power programmes continues to present challenges for the international community. We call on all States, especially those planning to embark on a nuclear power programme or having recently commissioned a Nuclear Power Plant for the first time, to become contracting parties to the relevant conventions, in particular the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management without delay. Furthermore, we encourage them to commit to the highest level of safety by implementing the IAEA Safety Standards and by hosting IAEA Peer Reviews, such as the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review and Site and External Events Design.

Mr. President,

Romania is among those states which believe that **nuclear power, used in a safe, secure and proliferation free manner** can play a key role to help ensure security of supply and reduce carbon emissions. Nuclear energy can also provide economic benefits and consumers with cost-effective electricity, as well as, by developing new nuclear projects, can have a positive impact on economic growth and creating jobs.

With these remarks I am now concluding my statement, not before thanking, once again, all distinguished participants for their valuable contributions to the debate. Please count on Romania's full support for a successful outcome of this conference.

Thank you.

private sector rigour and efficiencies to the management of the Laboratories.

Third, the Government introduced a plan for Responsible Resource Development that offers potential investors in major projects a new level of predictability in the regulatory review of their proposals. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission established 24-month timelines for projects that require its regulatory review and a Commission licensing decision. These changes will in no way compromise safety, which is the Commission's overarching objective.

Fourth, the Canadian Government has announced its intention to bring forward legislation that will increase the liability for nuclear operators to \$1 billion. This is well beyond the \$650 million of previous bills and in-line with most other major nuclear power producing countries. In addition, the Canadian Government has announced its intention to address potential trans-boundary impacts of a nuclear incident by joining the International Atomic Energy Agency's Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.

Fifth, we are also opening doors for other opportunities. In 2012, Prime Minister Harper announced an agreement to facilitate exports of Canadian uranium to China.

Last November, Canada and India announced the conclusion of negotiations for the Administrative Arrangement to implement the June 2010 Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between Canada and India. This will allow Canada's nuclear industry to pursue opportunities in India upon entry into force of the Agreement.

Finally, the safe and secure long-term management of radioactive waste is of great importance for the sustainable development of nuclear power. Canada's plan for managing nuclear fuel waste is to contain and isolate it in a deep geological repository. Canada is also considering a deep geological repository for managing low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste, generated from nuclear power, with public hearings set to begin in September 2013.

Closing

In closing, Mr. Co-Presidents, Canada believes that the St Petersburg Ministerial Conference is an excellent opportunity and forum to build upon the lessons learned from Fukushima, and thereby enhance the acceptability and opportunities for nuclear power to meet the needs of our populations.

With these comments, Canada looks forward to working with other participants of this conference to achieve a successful outcome.