

STATEMENT

by

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**at the High-level Segment of the
Review Conference of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

New York, 28 April 2015

*Madam Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,*

Allow me first to extend to you my most sincere congratulations for your appointment at the helm of our debates for the coming weeks, and to assure you of the Romanian delegation's full support.

Romania fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I will therefore limit myself to a few brief points in my national capacity.

Since its entry into force in 1970, the NPT has become the cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime. We all benefit from the nonproliferation efforts and the positive movement towards disarmament, and we all gain from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. All countries share a genuine interest in strengthening the Treaty's three pillars. But there is still a lot of work to be done, and we must recommit ourselves to this task. The entire international community shares the responsibility for concrete results to come to light and the common goal of a nuclear weapons free world to come to life.

2015 marks the 45th anniversary of the Treaty, and, as we gather here, in New York, to review the current review cycle, we must also acknowledge that more states are party to the NPT than to

any other arms control or nonproliferation agreement. What is more, the Non-Proliferation Treaty has stood the test of time remarkably well, having had an almost unparalleled contribution to making our world a safer place. And this work must continue.

That is why we consider that the 2015 RevCon must be an opportunity for States Parties to renew and intensify their commitment to the NPT, and to look for further means to strengthen the framework of nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. There is still room to achieve a realistic outcome, by encouraging a positive agenda and identifying the right strategies to implement the 2010 Action Plan.

Madam Chair,

On its part, Romania remains strongly committed to effective multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms. My presence here, representing the Government of Romania, stands as proof of the great importance my country attaches to enhancing the multilateral disarmament agenda.

Achieving a successful RevCon in 2015 is a priority for Romania. We expect that the Review Conference will provide us with a solid outcome, showing real and effective progress on all three pillars of the NPT. My country had the privilege to chair the Second Preparatory Committee in Geneva in 2013 and will chair the Main Committee II of this Review Conference.

The future of this Treaty relies on the political will of its States Parties for its full implementation, as well as the achievement of its universality. The challenge is, of course, to ensure the long lasting confidence in the regime's effectiveness. The Treaty is far too important to be held hostage to impractical demands or political agendas that will not command consensus.

Together, we should be able to manage properly the end of the current review cycle, acknowledging areas of implementation and success stories of the NPT application. In brief, a successful Conference requires taking stock, honestly, of the progress made and using this evaluation as a basis for tangible follow-up steps.

At the same time, we are aware that the RevCon is not taking place in a political vacuum. Fundamental changes have taken place and the international order was overturned, while important agreements were torn up. The mistreatment of Ukraine's commitments in acceding as a non-nuclear weapon state to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty may question the value of

nuclear weapon states' security assurances in a broader sense. Such actions erode the level of trust and undermine nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

Madam Chair,

Nuclear disarmament is a clear imperative alongside the need to collectively address, in an appropriate manner, the major proliferation challenges that we face today. Romania reaffirms its strong commitment towards achieving a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the NPT, and believes that the only realistic and practical way to achieve this goal is a step-by-step approach that promotes international stability, peace and increased security for all.

We acknowledge the decline in nuclear arsenals since the end of Cold War; mostly through bilateral efforts by the two nuclear powers with the largest arsenals. We encourage the Russian Federation and the United States to seek and address further prospects for nuclear disarmament, while engaging in frank and constructive dialogue to that end.

We welcome the outcome of the recent P5 Conference in London and the ongoing P5 process that contributes to increasing transparency and building confidence among the Nuclear-Weapons States. Mutual trust and transparency are crucial to eventual multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

We also want to voice our support for the further strengthening of the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime through the early entry into force of the CTBT. The commencement of the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament is the next logical steps for advancing nuclear disarmament and preventing nuclear proliferation.

In this context, I would like to recall the message sent to us all by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, in 2014, for the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons: *“What matters most is not which path is taken, but that the chosen path is heading in the right direction — towards the internationally agreed goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons”*.

Madam Chair,

As I indicated earlier, political will is essential to make steady progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. NPT Parties share a responsibility to reinforce the global nuclear

nonproliferation regime, in particular to overcome the challenges posed by a few countries that have violated their international nonproliferation obligations. Our common security would be profoundly affected if additional countries crossed the nuclear threshold.

We share the opinion that the Middle East deserves a comprehensive solution, including the elimination of all categories of weapons of mass destruction and a peace settlement in the region. The Conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear and other Weapons of Mass-Destruction was planned to be held before the end of year 2012. This schedule turned out to be too ambitious. Nevertheless, participating states have continued preparations and have taken constructively part in the process through informal consultations. Continued efforts are needed to achieve this objective, but without conditioning the political success of the RevCon of the developments on this issue.

We also acknowledge the essential contribution of the Nuclear Weapons Free Zones to the advancement to regional security and bolstering the global nonproliferation regime. In this context, we welcome the signature, by the nuclear weapons states, of the Treaty on the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia, during the Third PrepCom, in 2014. Further positive developments are also needed towards the signature of the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty Protocol, in order to promote greater transparency and dialogue among States.

Madam Chair,

The peaceful use of nuclear energy is a legitimate right of all NPT States Parties, that comes with rights and obligations that we all have to respect very closely. In this context, we welcome the understanding that was reached after a long and intense round of negotiations between E3+3 and Iran, on key parameters of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. We hope that the parties will build on the current momentum, in order to complete these negotiations before the end of June.

Developments and events over the past several years have underscored the critical role of the implementation of the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements, and especially the Additional Protocol, which establishes new verification standards for NPT and strengthens the IAEA's capabilities to detect and respond to non-compliance with safeguards obligations. For this reason, Romania strongly supports the universal adoption and implementation of the Additional Protocol. We have to continue our efforts to expand the adherence to the Additional Protocol.

Romania celebrates, in 2015, 60 years since the start of the national nuclear program. As a country with a relevant civilian nuclear program, Romania fully demonstrates its respect for each nation's right to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, under the condition that non-proliferation, safety and security are entirely met. Romania has a tradition of robust engagement in international cooperation projects and reaffirms its readiness to share its own expertise and experience in the field of nuclear security and safety.

Madam Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Before concluding, I would like to share with you a few of the thoughts of Nicolae Titulescu, a Romanian diplomat, President of the League of Nations in 1930 and 1931, who used to say that peace does not mean the lack of war, but “*a state of mind made up of confidence, mutual understanding and hope in tomorrow. Peace should not only be proclaimed, peace has to be won!*” This comes in support of our conviction that multilateral disarmament forums evolve in response to political realities.

The success of this Review Conference depends on us – the States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We should not fear the differences of opinion, but we should keep in mind that a positive outcome of our meeting will show true political will in dealing, in a balanced and comprehensive manner, with nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear power.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you once again of Romania's commitment to support you in your endeavours to achieve a successful outcome of the Conference.

Thank you, Madam Chair.