

# 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## Report on the implementation of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

### Report submitted by Romania

#### Introduction

1. Romania hereby submits its national report in accordance with the requirements of action 20 of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The report presents the steps and measures undertaken by Romania, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, in the implementation of the 2010 action plan since the 2015 Review Conference. The report updates the information provided in the previous report submitted by Romania at the 2015 Review Conference ([NPT/CONF.2015/27](#)).

2. Throughout the reporting period, Romania has continued to support the universalization and strengthening of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Romania has promoted a comprehensive and balanced implementation of the 2010 action plan across all three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty – nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology – which are equally important and mutually reinforcing.

#### Pillar I. Nuclear disarmament (actions 1 to 22)

3. Romania remains fully committed to a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the objectives of the Treaty and advocates a gradual and pragmatic process of nuclear disarmament, based on a step-by-step approach, ensuring undiminished security for all parties.

4. Romania continues to believe that the main objectives to be pursued in the field of nuclear disarmament remain the universality of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.



5. Romania also recognizes that advancing towards the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons must take into account the global security environment. Romania welcomed and actively participated in the initiative launched by the United States of America, “Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament”. Romania regards the initiative as a concrete, practical and realistic measure seeking to foster dialogue on disarmament challenges and exploring options for improving the conditions in the security environment in order to allow further advancement on nuclear disarmament. We acknowledge the added value that other initiatives, such as the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, have brought to the debates on disarmament and non-proliferation.

6. Romania has consistently expressed its strong support for the Conference on Disarmament as the unique framework for nuclear disarmament and continues to recognize its value for international peace and security. In 2017, during its presidency of the Conference on Disarmament, Romania advanced the proposal entitled “The way ahead”, which called for the establishment of a subsidiary body, with a mandate to evaluate the state of play and to ascertain tangible measures, which would facilitate the Conference on Disarmament moving forward. The decision on the establishment of a working group on the way ahead to identify common ground for a programme of work with a negotiating mandate was adopted on 17 February 2017 (CD/2090). The working group held meetings on all the agenda items of the Conference, including on nuclear disarmament, a fissile material cut-off treaty and negative security assurances. The substantive discussions in the working group have contributed to broadening the areas of convergence, laying a solid foundation for the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference in 2018.

7. In 2019, Romania chaired the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly. In this capacity, Romania acted as an honest broker, including on matters directly related to the implementation and strengthening of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

8. In 2020, Romania organized and hosted, in a virtual format, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction, Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. With more than 150 participants from over 50 countries, the Conference provided the opportunity for a fruitful exchange of ideas and opinions between nuclear-weapon States, non-nuclear-weapon States and representatives of international organizations, non-governmental organizations and academia in preparation for the tenth Review Conference.

9. Romania continues to advocate the entry into force and the implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which is a key element in the existing disarmament and non-proliferation architecture:

- Romania coordinated the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, chairing the dedicated open-ended working group
- Romania also acted as Chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization during 2016, the year of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Treaty and of the establishment of the Preparatory Commission
- Romania continues to be represented in the Group of Eminent Persons, with the aim of supporting and complementing efforts to promote the Treaty’s entry into force, as well as reinvigorating international endeavours to achieve this goal
- The Romanian National Data Centre actively participates in specific activities aimed at providing information for developing operational procedures and

further strengthening the International Data Centre as a central element of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty verification mechanism

- In September 2018, in collaboration with the Romanian National Data Centre, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization extended, for a second year, the deployment of a mobile infrasound installed in Romania, in light of the performance of the system
- In July 2018, the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission organized in Romania, with the support of the National Institute for Earth Physics, the National Data Centre intermediate-level infrasound data analysis training

10. In 2021, Romania was nominated to participate in the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/50. Romania acknowledges the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament and stands ready to contribute with its expertise to the discussions in the Group of Governmental Experts.

## **Pillar II. Nuclear non-proliferation (actions 23 to 46)**

11. Romania recognizes the international safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as an indispensable part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Romania has concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA and has signed and ratified the additional protocol to the comprehensive safeguards agreement, which represents the verification standard pursuant to article III (1) of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Romania strongly supports the universalization of the additional protocol. Romania is also among the States under integrated safeguards for which IAEA has updated and implemented a State-level safeguards approach.

12. As a State member of the European Union, Romania is also a party to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community.

13. Romania has continuously acted for further strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of IAEA safeguards and for further developing cooperation with the Agency. Among the measures taken, we recall preparing in advance a national implementation plan with well-defined procedures to facilitate the activities of IAEA through updating national legislation and regulations for the collection and transmission of safeguards-relevant information; establishing and updating the national list of safeguards-relevant locations; ensuring staff resources both at the level of the regulatory body and facility and the location outside facilities operators; implementing a national programme for collecting and verifying the information required to be reported to the Agency under the safeguards agreement and the additional protocol, including research and development activities not involving nuclear material and the import and export of nuclear-related items; conducting national inspections and verification activities in accordance with national regulations; and providing real-time safeguards information for relevant facilities.

14. Romania continues to advocate the central role of IAEA in coordinating global efforts and strengthening the international nuclear security architecture. Romania believes that the entry into force in 2016 of the Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material is an essential step in strengthening nuclear security.

15. Romania acted as co-chair of the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts, which was held from 10 to 14 February 2020, in Vienna. The Conference was an opportunity not only to exchange views on experiences and achievements, current approaches, future priorities and directions for nuclear security, but also to reaffirm the central role of

the Agency in promoting the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The ministerial segment successfully adopted the Ministerial Declaration of the Conference, a concise, politically driven and forward-looking document in which IAEA member States reaffirmed the common goals of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

16. On 3 April 2019, Romania organized in Vienna a workshop entitled “Nuclear security: from political commitment to practical implementation”, with the objective of highlighting the importance of political backing in achieving common nuclear security goals. The workshop preceded the launch of the process towards the International Conference on Nuclear Security.

17. Romania continued to take part in a series of activities organized by IAEA and co-hosted, together with the Agency, a number of events including a national workshop on threat assessment and design basis threat (held virtually in March 2021), a table-top exercise on transport security of nuclear materials (held in physical format in May 2021), a national workshop on nuclear security measures for major public events (held in physical format in June 2021), and a regional training course on computer security incident response for nuclear facilities (held in hybrid format in July 2021).

18. Since its commitment to strengthening nuclear forensics capabilities undertaken at the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C. in 2016, Romania has established robust nuclear forensics capabilities from both the scientific and the legal perspectives by strengthening cooperation with IAEA, the Nuclear Forensics International Technical Working Group, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the United States and the European Union.

19. Romania fully understands the value of international cooperation in the field of nuclear security. The Romanian Horia Hulubei National Institute for Research and Development in Physics and Nuclear Engineering and its new nuclear forensics laboratory are well equipped and ready to assist the national authorities, as well as regional and international partners, in preventing and responding to cases of the unauthorized use of nuclear or other radioactive materials.

20. Romania reaffirms its strong commitment to strengthening global capacity for the prevention, detection and response to nuclear terrorism. Romania fully participates in international efforts aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism and welcomes the role played by the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in this respect. In July 2021, Romania, together with the Netherlands, was elected to co-chair the Nuclear Forensics Working Group of the Global Initiative.

21. Romania participated in a wide range of events dedicated to the establishment and exchange of best practices for the response to and the management, prevention and combating of terrorist attacks.

22. In November 2018, Romania organized a training workshop on the use of the Nuclear Forensics Self-Assessment Tool, in cooperation with the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. The workshop helped our agencies to understand various aspects related to nuclear forensics, from evidence management to material analysis and interpretation. The updated Self-Assessment Tool and the associated worksheet materials developed by the Nuclear Forensics Working Group within the Global Initiative provided a base for discussions during the inter-agency meetings for piloting the process.

23. In October 2016, in cooperation with Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Romania organized the regional “Olympus” exercise to address challenges related to a nuclear security incident and to identify strategies and best practices for overcoming those

challenges. As follow-up to the Olympus exercise, Romania also organized, in close collaboration with the Global Initiative, a practical exercise focused on nuclear forensics support to investigations, known as “Olympus Reloaded” (Bucharest, November 2017).

24. Furthermore, from 16 to 18 November 2016, Romania conducted, in cooperation with the United States, a Proliferation Security Initiative regional workshop, which sought to increase participating States’ understanding of regional proliferation trends and increase regional understanding of, and commitment to upholding, the Statement of Interdiction Principles for the Proliferation Security Initiative.

25. Romania organized a side event on the margins of the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the tenth Review Conference entitled “Nuclear detectives to the rescue: the role of nuclear forensics in the fight against nuclear terrorism”, in order to promote a better understanding of nuclear forensics.

26. As part of its contribution to the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit, Romania pledged a series of unilateral commitments towards consolidating nuclear security: (a) Romania contributed with a voluntary financial contribution to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund; (b) the Romanian Authority for the Control of Nuclear Activities successfully improved the security for the transport of nuclear and radioactive material by implementing a pilot system for tracking the movement of radioactive sources, including their transport; and (c) in 2017, Romania developed and implemented a training course on national nuclear security culture, suitable for the personnel of all organizations with responsibilities for nuclear security.

27. As follow-up to the International Nuclear Security Advisory Service mission, in 2018, Romania established the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan as a basis for identifying future areas of bilateral cooperation, and for establishing and maintaining an effective nuclear security regime. Consequently, a regional workshop to coordinate the implementation of Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans was held in Bucharest, in July 2019, in order to facilitate the exchange of best practices, challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of nuclear security activities within the framework of an Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan.

28. From March to September 2021, the Romanian Authority for the Control of Nuclear Activities jointly co-hosted, with the National Nuclear Security Administration of the United States Department of Energy, a series of events in support of the implementation of the Joint Statement on Transport Security of Nuclear Materials (INFCIRC/909), with the aim of improving the dialogue on transport security of nuclear material and other radioactive sources in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

29. Romania is party to and fully implements all relevant treaties in the area of nuclear safety and security, including but not limited to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and its Amendment, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Romania encourages all States that have not yet done so to become parties to such treaties and conventions and, consequently, to comply with all non-proliferation obligations and strengthen the nuclear safety and security regime.

30. Romania continues to be a full and active member of all export control arrangements in the nuclear field, namely the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

31. Romania consistently reports its denials to the respective export control regimes and to all European Union member States within the European Union framework:

- In this respect, the national system for strategic export controls is founded on the commitments assumed by Romania at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels and has at its core the highest standards and best practices achieved by the international non-proliferation arrangements
- Romania always takes into account the safeguards and compliance records of recipient States, and security concerns always prevail over economic interests when deciding on granting an export licence, in its decision-making process on the export of nuclear-related goods. Romania conducts a case-by-case analysis for each application, a risk assessment and a general assessment of the recipient State, including its track record in non-proliferation commitments and the potential risk. Romania also takes into consideration the plausibility of the stated end use and end user, Government-to-Government assurances, and the risk of diversion
- Romania closely assesses nuclear security in the recipient State, including its adherence to international non-proliferation obligations, safeguards agreements and other assurances, in deciding to engage in nuclear cooperation with a State
- Among other relevant measures put in place to improve the control system, Romania developed an enforcement component, which strengthens the inter-institutional information-sharing process and administrative cooperation on both prevention and response

### **Pillar III. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy (actions 47 to 64)**

32. Romania firmly supports the inalienable right of all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty.

33. Romania continues to actively support the technical cooperation programme of IAEA and the statutory right of any Member State to be eligible for such programmes. Romania has under way technical cooperation projects in nuclear security and safety, while also regularly offering in-kind contributions and sharing know-how and best practices, thus contributing to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the IAEA technical cooperation programme. Romanian national institutions are offering training and assistance bilaterally or through the IAEA technical cooperation programme in order to support other Member States to build and improve their systems and develop the skills and competences of their personnel.

34. Romania is one of the countries that developed a wide spectrum of activities in the field of the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology, recognizing the major role they play in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ranging from research and development of radiopharmaceutical technologies for medical purposes to the preservation of cultural heritage, both at the national level and in cooperation with IAEA.

35. Romania signed the Country Programme Framework for the period 2020 to 2025, a reference for the medium-term planning of technical cooperation with IAEA, recognizing human health, energy and industry, nuclear and radiation safety, and food and agriculture as areas of priority to which the transfer of nuclear technology and technical cooperation resources will be directed to support national development goals.

36. Based on more than 60 years' experience and expertise in the nuclear field, Romania has a close cooperation with IAEA, as well as being a technical support donor for the training of scholarship fellows from IAEA member States in fields such

as nuclear forensics, technological irradiation, the decommissioning of nuclear facilities, institutional radioactive waste management, and nuclear safety and security.

37. Romania reaffirms its readiness to continue to share its theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of nuclear safety and security with other IAEA member States.

38. In July 2021, the VVR-S nuclear research reactor was decommissioned. This technological procedure was very complex and, at the same time, a pioneering work in our country that allowed for the formation of a professional, dedicated team, which developed the necessary skills and competences to perform such activities. The team stands ready to participate in other decommissioning projects worldwide.

39. On 17 January 2020, Romania achieved the designation of its Nuclear Research Institute in Pitești as an IAEA International Centre based on Research Reactors in two areas of activity: education and training, and joint research and development projects.

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