

Statement by ROMANIA
at the 69th session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency
Delivered by H. E. Ms. Oana Toiu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania
Vienna, 15 September 2025

**President,
Director-General Grossi,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Burian on your election as President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Conference of the IAEA. I would like to assure you of Romania's full support and cooperation towards a successful conference. I would also like to extend my country's appreciation to Director-General Rafael Grossi for his determined leadership and to thank the IAEA for its steadfast support and **excellent cooperation with Romania across a wide range of issues**. The IAEA remains a key strategic partner in advancing our national and regional objectives in nuclear safety, innovation, and peaceful uses.

Romania fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I would also like to take this opportunity to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

**President,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Deliberations at this year's General Conference reflect the **complexity and evolving nature of the global geopolitical landscape**. We meet at a time when the convergence of different crises has highlighted the critical role of the IAEA. This is especially evident in the context of Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine putting at risk the safety and security of nuclear facilities. Romania reiterates its condemnation of Russia's full scale invasion in Ukraine and supports a just and lasting peace, in accordance with international law.

I emphasize the importance of maintaining a **balance approach between the three fundamental pillars of IAEA's work: nuclear safety and security, nuclear science and technology and safeguards and nonproliferation**. This General Conference can serve as a meaningful platform for reinforcing international cooperation and advancing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in line with the highest standards.

Romania continues to invest in nuclear safety and regulatory excellence.

This June, Romania successfully hosted once again a **full-scale IAEA ConvEx-3 global exercise designed to test the readiness for a nuclear or radiological emergency with cross-border consequence**. Organized in close collaboration with the IAEA, **this represented the world's largest and most complex international nuclear emergency exercise**, simulating a severe accident. The exercise **evaluated the international emergency response arrangements and capabilities for a severe nuclear or radiological emergency** over several days. National capabilities to tackle the most demanding scenarios were also practised.

We are proud to serve as a **regional hub for training and knowledge transfer in nuclear safety and security**. By recognizing the leading role that IAEA plays in the area of international cooperation and in the creation of a robust legislative and regulatory framework – the Romanian experts participated in most of the meetings organized under the IAEA auspices, both as trainees and lecturers.

Romania is also committed to expanding its low-carbon energy production through nuclear power and is one of the first countries in Europe that has the potential to deploy small modular reactors in Europe

and become a **catalyst for SMRs in the region**. To this end, the training of a new generation of specialists in the development of the nuclear field is of particular importance for Romania, involving not only graduates of faculties in the field of nuclear physics and engineering, but also from other related fields, necessary in the development of the infrastructure for nuclear installations.

Two weeks ago, we launched **the refurbishing of the first unit of our Nuclear Power Plant**. We are also **advancing the completion of** Cernavodă Units 3 and 4, in partnership with international stakeholders. Both undertakings are in full compliance with IAEA standards and Euratom obligations.

We continue to engage actively in peaceful applications of nuclear science. Romania is a partner country of the IAEA's "Rays of Hope" initiative and is expanding its national cancer care infrastructure. We also contribute to research and training in radiopharmacy, medical isotopes, and non-destructive testing.

The CANDU nuclear technology used at Cernavodă NPP is one of the most feasible technologies to produce medical isotopes effectively and in full compliance with nuclear safety standards. In November last year, Nuclearelectrica and Framatome signed a Collaboration Agreement to produce the medical isotope Lutetium-177 in Romania. Isotopes play a key role in medicine, cancer treatment, medical imaging, sterilization of medical devices and in many other areas. 10,000 hospitals worldwide use radioisotopes in around 100 different nuclear medicine procedures, totaling nearly 49 million medical procedures each year.

President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Romania reiterates its firm support for the IAEA's work in **safeguarding the non-proliferation regime**, particularly important today when we are confronted with multiple security crises.

Since its entry into force, the NPT has been the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime as a key instrument to the maintenance of international peace and security. Romania continues to reaffirm its commitment to the **fundamental principles of the NPT** and commends the **Agency's efforts in its verification activities**. We continue to promote and call for the entry into force and universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), as well as for the immediate start of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). Romania fully supports the IAEA's independent verification role and calls for universal adoption of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols. We also encourage the use of the IAEA's technical assistance mechanisms to support responsible nuclear development, particularly in emerging nuclear states.

Romania ratified the main international instruments in the nuclear field, such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), the Amendment to CPPNM, the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSTANT) and the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We encourage all States that have not yet done so, to become parties to these relevant documents.

We are grateful for the bilateral cooperation with the specialized offices of the US and Canada to strengthen national capacities and identify areas of **continued collaboration on nuclear security**.

We will continue to pay close attention to the development and deployment of advanced reactors. The Romanian regulatory authority, through collaboration with Belgian counterparts and the IAEA, have developed a **regulatory assessment and licensing process for a future lead-cooled Generation IV Small Modular Reactor (SMR)**. We are committed to ensuring nuclear safety and security during the design, development and deployment phases of SMRs and are supporting the Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI), launched by the IAEA Director General.

Romania reaffirms its unwavering support for the mission, mandate and activity of the IAEA. We commend the Director General and the IAEA staff for their dedication and professionalism, sometimes in difficult circumstances affecting their safety, including in Ukraine Iran or Syria.

We believe that international cooperation, scientific research and institutional transparency must guide our collective efforts to ensure a safe, secure, and sustainable nuclear future. We will continue to support the Agency's mission in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, contributing to international peace and security and sustainable development. We would also like to reaffirm **Romania's appreciation for and longstanding commitment to the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, including through national voluntary contributions.**

We are honored to be a trusted partner of the Agency, and we look forward to further deepening our collaboration in support of peace, security, and development. We look forward to successfully starting at this General Conference our mandate as a member of the Board of Governors for the term 2025–2027. We commit to bringing forward our long-standing support to multilateralism, our technical expertise, and our prior experience in supporting the effective functioning of this key decision-making body.

I thank you.