

Romania

National Statement at the Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT)

Tokyo, 1-2 June 2017

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Co-Chairs,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to join the other speakers in thanking the Government of Japan for the warm hospitality extended to all of us, and its commitment to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

Romania aligns itself to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the efforts and activities that Romania has taken since the 2015 Plenary in support of the GICNT objectives.

The United States and the Russian Federation, in their capacity as Co-chairs of the GICNT, have done a commendable job in promoting the principles and objectives of the Initiative, thus strengthening the global nuclear security architecture.

We would also like to acknowledge the work done by **Finland, Australia and Morocco** over the past two years in establishing and advancing the activity of the three working groups on nuclear detection, nuclear forensics and response and mitigation. We also welcome Paraguay and Nigeria as new members of the GICNT community.

Nuclear Security Summits (NSS)

Romania was a strong supporter of the **Nuclear Security Summits**, having participated at the highest level. The NSS served as an important platform to strengthen nuclear security, which is why Romania supports the commitments presented in the NSS Communiqués, and we welcome that the contribution of the GICNT has been acknowledged in the Summit process.

Although NSS 2016 was the last event of its type, we welcome the fact that the Sherpa representatives will continue to meet in order to maintain the nuclear security issue high on the international agenda, as demonstrated also by the meetings of the **Nuclear Security Contact Group** (NSCG).

Nuclear Terrorism

As we are all aware, nuclear terrorism is perceived today as a significant, tangible risk due to the increasing level of threat stemming from the global expansion of terrorism. Concerted actions are needed on all levels.

The responsibility for nuclear security lies with the states. It is therefore vital to ensure adequate preparedness for all phases of a nuclear security incident: prevention, nuclear detection, nuclear forensics and response and mitigation.

Nuclear Forensics

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to share with the GICNT community that nuclear forensics has known a rapid and impressive development on national level.

As such, **national scientists from "Horia Hulubei" National Institute for R&D in Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH) successfully established the nuclear forensic science** by adapting/repurposing the existing national capabilities to support nuclear forensics investigations and perform research in this field.

Our nuclear forensics experts are actively involved in the activities of the Nuclear Forensics International Technical Working Group (ITWG), such as the ITWG annual meetings, the Galaxy Serpent 2 Exercise, and the Collaborative Materials Exercise (CMX-5). Additionally, I would just note that the Data Review Meeting of CMX-5 was held in April 2017 in Bucharest.

As outcome of the rapid development of its nuclear forensics capabilities, Romania stands ready to share its experience and expertise with other states in the region. As a result, **two Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the neighboring countries of the Republic of Moldova and Hungary.**

Furthermore, IFIN-HH has been invited to collaborate with international organizations, and thus two more agreements – a Practical Agreement with the IAEA, and an Amendment to the existing Collaboration Agreement with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) dedicated to strengthening scientific collaboration between JRC Karlsruhe and IFIN-HH – are currently being finalized.

In line with the NSS commitment to strengthen national capabilities for nuclear forensics investigations, nuclear scientists and policy makers are taking a series of steps, which include:

- ✓ Establishing and equipping the first National Nuclear Forensics Laboratory of Romania;
- ✓ Developing a National Nuclear Forensics Library;
- ✓ Elaborating a National Response Plan to Illicit Trafficking of Nuclear & Radioactive Material;
- ✓ Sharing the national experience and expertise with neighboring countries.

Exercise Olympus

Mr. Chairman,

On 19-21 October 2016, Romania, in cooperation with GICNT and INTERPOL, organized the regional Exercise OLYMPUS. The objective was to discuss various challenges during a nuclear security incident, and to identify strategies and best practices for overcoming those challenges.

It is my pleasure to announce that, as follow-up to Exercise Olympus, **Romania will organize a regional, practical exercise focused exclusively on nuclear forensics**, under the GICNT auspices. The event is intended for the scientific community, policy makers and response agencies in the Black Sea region. The purpose of the exercise is three fold: 1. Review current nuclear forensics capabilities in support of investigation; 2. Evaluate the national legal framework that lies at the basis for an investigation in response to a nuclear security event; and 3. Test cooperation at national, regional and international level.

We look forward to sharing the results and lessons learned of this exercise with all GICNT partners during future events.

Last but not least, we would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Netherlands for its role and achievements as GICNT IAG coordinator, through Amb. Kees Nederlof, and commit to offer our full support to the incoming IAG Coordinator.

Thank you.