Statement
by H.E. Ambassador Simona Miculescu,
Permanent Representative of Romania to the UN,
on the Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons cluster
New York – 20 October 2014
Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the Chairmanship of the First Committee and to extend our congratulations to the other colleagues in the Bureau. I can assure you of Romania’s full support as you continue to ably steer our debates during the coming weeks. Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. And now I would also like to share a few remarks on a national capacity; a longer version will be placed on Quickfirst.

The First Committee is a once a year opportunity to exchange views on the state of affairs on the international security matters and specifically on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as other nuclear related issues. Like others, we also believe that the entire international community shares the responsibility for concrete results in order to achieve the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. We strongly back all initiatives aimed at supporting the Conference on Disarmament to fulfill its mandate, agree on a programme of work and start negotiations on the items on its agenda, in particular the FMCT. We are all aware that the world outside these walls is paying an increased attention to the nuclear disarmament process, with a series of high level events and conferences being organized in the last couple of years, including the Conferences in Oslo, Nayarit, as well as the future one in Vienna, next December, as part of the humanitarian consequences initiative. It is our common duty, therefore, to relentlessly continue our efforts to fully implement the letter and the spirit of the NPT. At the same time, we are looking forward to more reductions in nuclear arsenals and we welcome the US’s willingness to continue to work on this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Romania remains strongly committed to effective multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms, and, consequently, we believe the Non-proliferation Treaty to be the foundation, the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Romania has actively participated in the three PrepComs of the present review cycle of the NPT implementation, having the privilege to chair the Second Preparatory Committee in Geneva in 2013 and the honor to chair the Main Committee II of the 2015 Review Conference. The upcoming RevCon represents the opportunity for all State Parties to renew and intensify their commitment towards a balanced and comprehensive implementation of the NPT. In this regard, the 2010 Action Plan continues to stand as a clear benchmark for progress of the international community on advancing the implementation of the
three pillars of the treaty. There has been considerable progress on parts of the Action Plan, but also much more remains to be done still, a lot of effort and political will continues to be required in order for all the commitments to become reality.

This year we are registering some considerable positive developments in the Middle East, such as the accession of Syria to the Chemical Weapons Convention and particularly unprecedented negotiations between the E3-3 and Iran with a view to a comprehensive resolution of the Iranian nuclear programme. These developments provide a positive context for the informal consultations held in Glion and Geneva to come to the successful convening of the Helsinki Conference, as set out by the 2010 NPT final outcome, as soon as possible.

As a non-nuclear weapons state, Romania will continue to do its part, through practical steps, in support of the international security architecture and the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Romania fully supports the right of any State to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, under the condition that non-proliferation, safety and security conditions are entirely met. Maintaining the balance between rights and obligations envisaged in the Treaty is essential.

In terms of its national nuclear program, Romania is one of the 32 countries in the world which possesses the so-called “once-through” nuclear fuel cycle. The consistency of procedures and practices in the field of nuclear security, in use at Cernavoda Nuclear Power Plant, has been repeatedly confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as in the European Union framework. At the same time, we count on a solid national legislation and robust regulations regarding nuclear security, as Romania is party to all relevant legal instruments in the field. Romania participated in the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in Seoul in 2012 and The Hague, earlier this year. The Washington and Seoul Communiques, as well as the Washington Work Plan provided a solid basis for continuing work within the NSS framework. The Hague meeting was another step in the right direction, leading to substantial results with regard to reducing the amount of civil nuclear material in the world. The objective of reducing the continuing threat of nuclear terrorism remains one of the most important challenges in the years to come. We believe that in this ongoing process, the International Atomic Energy Agency is playing a leading role in coordinating our efforts.
In this context, Romania would like to restate that the safeguards system is the adequate instrument for ensuring the appropriate monitoring and control, by both the IAEA and the EURATOM, over all the raw and special fissionable materials. The developments over the past several years have underscored the critical role of the Additional Protocol and the comprehensive safeguards agreements in contributing to strengthening the IAEA’s capacity to detect and respond to non-compliance with safeguards obligations. We commend the IAEA Secretariat for the way it has conducted the preparations for this year IAEA General Conference, the open and transparent consultations process and technical briefings which have generated a very positive outlook with regard to the State Level Concept and we welcome its further development, as a valuable tool of the implementation of the NPT, helping to create an environment conducive to nuclear peaceful cooperation. The International Atomic Energy Agency should be equipped with the necessary resources to fulfill its mandate and, most of all, it must benefit from the political support of all its member states in order to perform its tasks at the highest professional standards. The role of IAEA in the implementation of the third pillar of the NPT, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, is also a crucial one, in particular through its technical cooperation programmes.

Finally, I wish to highlight also the fact that, ten years after the adoption of the Resolution 1540, this instrument is widely recognized as complementing the multilateral non-proliferation regimes. Romania has co-sponsored this resolution and supported actively its implementation by all States, including during its Chairmanship of the 1540 Committee in 2004 and 2005. We participated in the Security Council’s debate, organized by the Republic of Korea in May this year, and we are encouraged by the steady progress that Member States have reported in enacting national measures to implement its provisions. We recently reaffirmed our strong commitment once more by signing up to the Joint Statement on Promoting Full and Universal Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, at the 3rd Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague. The 1540 Committee and its Group of experts play an important role in advancing the implementation of the Resolution and they need to be supported to continue their important work ahead.

Concluding, Mr. Chairman, I assure you of my delegation’s desire to be an active participant in all relevant discussions for strengthening the multilateral cooperation in this particular forum, with a view to further consolidate the international security architecture.

Thank you.