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# 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## **Repatriation of all Russian-origin fresh highly enriched uranium as well as spent fuel from Romania**

### **Working paper submitted by Romania and the Russian Federation**

1. In June 2009, all Russian-origin fresh highly enriched uranium and spent fuel in Romania were repatriated. The material was removed and returned to the Russian Federation by air for storage at secure nuclear facilities. Those activities resulted in a permanent threat reduction, since sensitive nuclear material at civilian sites was eliminated.
2. The repatriation of Russian-origin highly enriched uranium was achieved under the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) programme, through a bilateral agreement between the Russian Federation and Romania and in close cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United States of America.
3. The safe and secure management of spent fuel and radioactive waste as well as fresh fuel represents a challenge for all States. Solutions have been engineered, and the matter is subject to further research. International initiatives such as the Global Threat Reduction Initiative have been launched and have proved their relevance in improving security in the nuclear field. Activities carried out under the GTRI programme have significantly reduced and protected vulnerable nuclear and radiological materials located at civilian sites worldwide. The successful completion of shipments from Romania has led to the repatriation of an important quantity of Russian-origin highly enriched uranium fresh fuel from several countries, including Serbia, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Latvia and Viet Nam, since the GTRI programmes started to be considered.
4. The development of nuclear power programmes needs to be pursued with due consideration for nuclear safety, in particular, with respect to the application of IAEA safety standards, in order to maintain and promote a high standard of safety at the international level. States should take into account the importance of international cooperation for the enhancement of nuclear safety and, in this regard, adhere to the international safety conventions concluded under the auspices of IAEA, in particular



the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

5. Nuclear and radioactive materials are transported by all means of transportation. This process needs to be safe and secure. Therefore, all States should take the necessary measures and provide for the respective arrangements with the purpose of ensuring the highest standards of security for nuclear material and facilities. High priority should be given to international, regional and bilateral cooperation within the appropriate legal framework, in particular through adherence to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and through the implementation of the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials.

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