



Saira Afzal Tarar
Minister of State

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of National Health Services,
Regulations & Coordination

Islamabad, February 6, 2017

Subject: Candidature for Director-General, World Health Organization

Dear Mr. David Sergeenko,

I am writing to follow up on our Government's earlier correspondence regarding our candidate for Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Sania Nishtar. As you know the post will become vacant in July 2017, upon completion of the term of the incumbent Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chan. You will be pleased to learn that Dr. Nishtar has now been officially nominated as one of the three nominees for the position, after being successfully elected by the Executive Board of the World Health Organization on January 25, 2017.

Our Prime Minister has nominated Dr. Sania Nishtar in view of her exceptional credentials. Her combination of experience as minister, civil society trailblazer, leader in multilateral institutions, physician scientist, and founder of institutions, makes her uniquely qualified.

The position of Director-General is a complex one. Dr. Nishtar's experience and past performance exemplifies her ability to do the job. Dr. Nishtar has astute multilateral leadership skills as demonstrated recently in the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity, of which she was co-Chair. She is known for her ethical style of leadership, which is why she was appointed by the UN Secretary-General as founding Chair of the Independent Accountability Panel (IAP) on Women and Children's Health. She has led many WHO initiatives, has extensively engaged in the international discourse on health and development and sits on the governing bodies of several international agencies. Dr. Nishtar is the founder of the globally recognized health policy think tank, Heartfile. She has been awarded the Global Innovation Award for her ability to innovate, build institutions from scratch and take fresh ideas to scale.

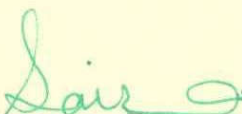
Dr. Nishtar's top-class technical credentials are evident from her resume, details of which can be accessed at www.sanianishtar.info. She has expertise in two major additional areas relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals, Non-communicable Diseases and health systems. She also has a strong track record of inter-sectoral action for health, which is a cross-cutting theme of the SDGs. With a holistic and universal approach to health, the SDGs are framing a context where Dr. Nishtar can act as a bridge between national and global perspectives.

WHO needs a merit based candidate, one with a combination of technical and leadership competencies. Dr. Nishtar's diverse technical and leadership attributes, her ability to navigate and implement change and deliver results, her resource-mobilization and partnership-building

skills, her ability to innovate, and her pro-reform, accountability and transparency credentials would be critical for leading WHO.

During the course of the election campaign, she has demonstrated her ability to be a leader who listens. She has also been lauded for the comprehensive and transparent nature of her campaign, in particular her commitment to making public her campaign financing and the comprehensive explanation of her platform through the publication of a Vision Statement, copies of which I enclose herewith. We have had consistent feedback that she garners trust through her approach and projects confidence, experience and expertise, which are exactly the attributes needed to help WHO regain the worlds trust.

We are confident that you will share our resolve for merit in selection of Dr. Nishtar. As decision makers, it is our responsibility to give utmost attention to this critical global leadership position. We have full confidence that Dr. Nishtar is the right candidate for this post and trust you will also show similar resolve. I am confident that with your support in the final election in May 2017, she will make the most dynamic leader of the World Health Organization. I seek your support on all rounds of the forthcoming election in May.



(Saira Afzal Tarar)

H.E. Mr. David Sergeenko

Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Georgia