



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Islamabad, Pakistan

Adviser to the Prime Minister
on Foreign Affairs

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Excellency,

You would be aware that in May 2017, the World Health Assembly (WHA) will choose the leadership of World Health Organization (WHO) – the premier organization responsible for global public health.

After thorough deliberations, Pakistan launched the candidature of Dr. Sania Nishtar for this post. I am pleased to note that at first round of elections, in January 2017, Dr. Nishtar has been shortlisted by the WHO Executive Board along with two other candidates, which speaks volumes of her distinguished credentials and respect for merit.

I believe that as foreign policy stewards, one of our key responsibilities is to provide input and support for effective multilateralism. This must also include support for the right leadership. It is with this premise and after careful consideration, we decided to present the candidature of Dr. Nishtar. Her technical knowledge, integrity, and appropriateness for WHO has lent impetus to the candidature.

As the global health agency with universal membership, WHO has a critical role in leading the response to some of the challenges such as emerging and reemerging infections, antibiotic resistance and non-communicable diseases, and widening inequalities which threaten to wipe out development gains of the last century. The agency is currently in the initial stages of critically-needed reforms and it is important for the next Director-General to have both the combination of astute technical as well as proven and strong reform and accountability credentials to ensure that the agency delivers its mandate.

Dr. Nishtar has a proven track record of leadership to bring change and deliver results. As a strong and progressive woman leader from the South, known for her iconic role in integrity promotion globally, her reform-related credentials are uniquely suited to lead WHO at this critical juncture. In addition, her combination of experience as Minister, civil society trailblazer, leader in multilateral institutions, physician scientist, and founder of institutions, makes her uniquely qualified. I have seen first-hand, her competence in relation to the “micro”—understanding people’s needs to influence the “macro” in terms of policy reform. This, combined with her wide experience, charisma, consensus-building and problem solving abilities and excellent communication skills, make her a unique candidate.

As a member of the World Health Assembly, your country will be playing a critical role to elect the next Director-General in May this year. I am confident that your invaluable support will ensure the success of Dr. Nishtar and afford her the opportunity to lead the World Health Organization.



(Sartaj Aziz)

H. E. Mr. Mikheil Janelidze,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
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