

Brief Bio

Sania Nishtar; SI, FRCP, Ph.D

Named as the International Health Professional of the Year 2007 by the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, Dr. Sania Nishtar is known best for her contributions to health policy and planning. With a rare combination of professional qualifications of a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and a Ph.D, Nishtar left a lucrative cardiologist's career eight years ago to form the NGO think tank, Heartfile, which today is the most powerful health policy voice in Pakistan and recognized as a model for replication in other developing countries. Her areas of interests are health systems reform, and cross cutting issues of governance and public-private relationships in the social sector, reorienting priorities in health and global health. Her pioneering work in the health sector has inspired many new initiatives, and shaped policies on non-communicable diseases and health reform. Within the country, she sits on many boards, is part of many initiatives and provides strategic support to many agencies.

Internationally, her scope of work has several dimensions. She is currently a trustee of the Paris-based International Union for Health Promotion and member of the Board of Governors of the Geneva-based Alliance for Health Policy and Systems. She is also a member of the Clinton Global Initiative, the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council, several high level task forces of the World Health Organization, WHO's Global Expert Panel on Health Promotion, WHO DG's Task Force on Financing and R&D, the Rockefeller Foundation/Brookings institute's Expert Group on Private Sector in Health Systems and the Global Ministerial Leadership Initiative's High Level Task Force. She has formerly been on several international Boards, and has chaired several global campaigns and programs. She has also been an advisor to WHO on numerous occasions, has published over 100 journal articles and is the author of 4 books; she speaks to audiences around the world and has been extensively published in and quoted in the media. Sania Nishtar is the recipient of Pakistan's Sitara-e-Imtiaz, the European Societies Population Science Award and 16 gold medals. A detailed profile can be accessed at <http://www.sanianishtar.info>