



Dr. Sania Nishtar  
Federal Minister  
Education and Trainings, Science and  
Technology, and Information Technology

Islamabad  
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It has been three weeks since I took office—ever since, I have been meaning to communicate with all of you with some initial reflections on where I stand in this role.

In my capacity as a Caretaker Federal Minister I will be in this role for around two months. As much as I would have liked to, I may not have the opportunity to meet each one of you in person, given the time constraint. Hence, as a starting point, I wanted to let you all know how deeply honored and humbled I feel to have been chosen for this responsibility at such a critical time in the history of our beloved country. The Oath of Office as a Federal Minister under the shadow of the *Flag of the Green Crescent and Star* and my solemn swear to bear allegiance to Pakistan is a responsibility I have embraced dearer than life.

Amidst a plethora of challenges and a tight timeline, I am aware that I need to be very strategic in my approach and that every day counts. I have spent the last three weeks imbibing briefings, putting them in context and reflecting on the challenges and potential opportunities within a given context, limited timeline and defined mandate. Within this context, I categorize my scope of work into three areas: conduct of free and fair elections, which is the core mandate of the caretaker government; administrative running of the ministry; and strategic planning for potential reform. With regard to the latter, I am trying to identify sectoral and specific challenges and respective opportunities to overcome them within the confines of the mandate of this ministry. These I plan to summarize in a hand-over note to my successor; however, to the extent possible and appropriate, I will also try and ‘sow the right seeds’. I seek your partnership in this regard and look forward to working closely with the Secretary to the Government of Pakistan in this ministry and his leadership team to deliver on this premise.

Let me also reiterate that I am deeply mindful of the principles, which characterize the Oath of Office. In my civil society role, I had been a staunch advocate of the principles of integrity, transparency and objectivity, and understand fully how these come into play in my present role. Let me assure you that I intend to uphold them fully. I have also read carefully the Cabinet Division’s Code of Conduct for Ministers, the Compilation of Important Government Instructions, the Rules of Business, and the Official Secrets Act, with which I will comply fully in my discharge of duties as a Federal Minister. These norms will be guiding parameters of my conduct whilst in office.

To be able to serve your country is a sacred responsibility, far more sacred than any act one can do in one’s individual capacity. “Government is a sacred trust”, a Caliph rightly

articulated. Above all, the following Hadith puts things in perspective “If he does not strive diligently to promote their welfare, he will not enter Paradise with them.” I shall remember this while I fly the *Green Crescent and Star*.

May God give us all the strength to do the right things for the right reasons.

Pakistan Paindabad!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sania Nishtar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Sania Nishtar