# TALKING POINTS FOR MEETINGS WITH BHUTAN

# Pakistan’s candidature for WHO DG

* Pakistan has launched its candidature for WHO Director General.
* The election will be in held in two phases. In January 2017, the 34-member Executive Board of WHO will elect up to three candidates and in May 2017, the 196-member World Health Assembly will elect one.
* Pakistan has adopted a merit based approach to its candidature. Our Candidate, Dr. Sania Nishtar has wide experience. She served as a federal minister, has strong civil society credentials and is experienced in the multilateral system as chair of a WHO commission. She is a Royal College of Physicians qualified physician, a researcher with a Ph.D, and a widely published author and thought leader in global health.
* The Candidature has been welcomed by the OIC during its 13th Summit in Istanbul in April this year
* After the Ebola epidemic, WHO needs a merit based candidate, one with a combination of technical competencies, leadership and accountability credentials. Our candidate’s diverse technical and leadership attributes can be crucial for leading WHO. Her accountability credentials are evidenced by her recent selection by UNSG to chair the UN’s Independent Accountability Panel on Women and Children’s health.
* Geographic considerations favor Pakistan’s candidature as there has never been a WHO DG from the Eastern Mediterranean region. According to the new rules of election, regions which have ever had a DG would be given preference. Dr. Sania Nishtar would be the first Muslim to head WHO, if selected, and could play a major role in portraying a positive and progressive image of the Muslim world
* Two out of the three health agencies in the UN system (UNFPA, and UNAIDS) are already headed by Africans.
* Our candidate has engaged with experts and government officials from Bhutan in her work in the multilateral system, notably, WHO.
* She was an invited expert to the 2nd High Level Meeting on Wellbeing and Happiness hosted by Prime Minister Jigmi Y Thinley of Bhutan at the UN General Assembly in 2011 and the Columbia University consultation on Wellbeing and Happiness hosted by Jeffery Sachs along with the government of Bhutan.
* Her Ph.D thesis was on South Asian Coronary risk, so she is deeply familiar with the ethnic similarities in South Asia. She engaged with the SAARC Cardiac Society early in her career and her first book was about preventing heart disease in South Asia.
* Pakistan-Bhutan relations have been active at least since 2004. Pakistan offers scholarships to Bhutanese students, particularly in medicine and engineering. In March 2011 the Bhutani Prime Minister Lyonchen Jigme Yoser Thinley led a three-day delegation to Pakistan, and met with the then Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani. They covered a range of bilateral issues including economic, commercial, investment, educational and cultural links.
* Your support for Pakistan’s candidature will further strengthen our relationship