# TALKING POINTS FOR MEETINGS WITH NEW ZEALAND

# 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 many experts and government officials from New Zealand in her work in the multilateral system, notably, WHO.
* She has co-authored numerous papers with colleagues from New Zealand and has served on commissions and task forces with them.
* Most recently, she co-Chaired the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity with Sir Peter Gluckman, Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand.
* At the country to country level, New Zealand was party to the [Commonwealth Heads of Government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_Heads_of_Government) decision to readmit Pakistan to the [Councils of the Commonwealth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Councils_of_the_Commonwealth) after the restoration of civilian rule in May 2008.
* In April 2007, Trade Minister launched a pilot ‘Waste to Energy’ project near Karachi. The project designed by a New Zealand firm turns animal waste into energy and fertilizer. The Landhi Cattle Colony which supplies milk to Karachi always had a problem with waste disposal, the monsoon rains would wash it away causing health hazards. This project was therefore successful in developing a model for sustainability
* In February 2009, after a meeting in Islamabad between the then Chairperson Higher Education Commission and the High Commissioner of New Zealand for Pakistan it was announced that the HEC would promote linkages with educational institutions in New Zealand. The HEC has thus far sent 111 scholars to New Zealand; 48 in Massey University and 63 in the University of Auckland.
* We are appreciative of your support in the social sectors. Your support for Pakistan’s candidature will further strengthen our relationship