# TALKING POINTS FOR MEETINGS WITH THAILAND

# 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 extensively engaged with many experts and government officials from Thailand in her work in the multilateral system, notably, WHO.
* As a thought leader in global health, she has been invited on several occasions to Thailand for expert consultations and to speak, especially for the Prince Mahidol Award Conference
* She has co-authored numerous papers with colleagues from Thailand and has served on commissions and task forces with them.
* As a health systems expert, she draws inspiration from the Thai health system model, and is committed to give it more visibility in WHO, if elected.
* Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Thailand in 2013 and expressed desire to enhance bilateral cooperation in his meeting with Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Thailand provides training to a large number of Pakistani health professionals every year in the field of Public health.
* Your support for Pakistan’s candidature will further strengthen our relationship