# TALKING POINTS FOR MEETINGS WITH TURKEY

# 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 Turkey in her work in the multilateral system, notably, WHO. As a thought leader in global health, she has been invited on several occasions to Turkey for expert consultations and to speak.
* She has co-authored numerous papers with Turkish colleagues and has served on commissions and task forces with them. As a health systems expert, she draws inspiration from the Turkish health system model, and is committed to give it more visibility in WHO, if elected.
* At the government to government level, Pakistan's multi-faceted relationship with Turkey rests on the solid foundations of common faith, cultural affinity and shared history and traditions. It is illustrated by the abiding tradition of both peoples standing by each other in good times and bad and supporting each other's national causes whether Kashmir or Cyprus. In February 2015, the Prime Ministers of the two countries agreed to commence negotiations on a comprehensive bilateral free trade agreement covering trade in goods, services and investments. Framework agreement to this end was signed in Islamabad on March 2016. Turkish Government is working extensively in the area of health and sanitation in Punjab. A solid waste management Project has been launched in Punjab with Turkish assistance. The establishment of Tayyip Erdogan Hospital in Muzaffargarh last year was a great gift from the Turkish government for the people of south Punjab.

* The Turkish government was one of the first to come forward in the wake of 2005 earthquake for rescue, relief and rehabilitation of earthquake affectees. A large number of field hospitals were established by Turkey in the earthquake affected areas where thousands of affectees were provided free treatment. In 2015 Turkey provided a generous support worth 20 Million US Dollars for those affected by floods and terrorism in Pakistan.
* The two Turkish engineers — Genk Yakin and Ufuk Arsalan – have left indelible imprint on the minds and hearts of Pakistanis and survivors of last October’s devastating earthquake when they died in the line of duty in Balakot.
* Turkey was the first country to send aid to Pakistan immediately after the killer trembler struck on Oct 8, 2005. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan also visited the affected areas to personally console the survivors.
* A seven-year old Turkish girl Erva Yalcin donated her gold bangles to Pakistan earthquake orphan children which every father in Turkey gives his new-born girl as the most-loved treasure throughout her life. Bilateral cooperation through Joint Economic Commission.
* We are highly appreciative of your support and collaboration. Your support for Pakistan’s candidature will further strengthen our relationship.