# TALKING POINTS FOR MEETINGS WITH UK

# 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.
* Sania Nishtar’s Alma Mater is UK-based. She is a member of the Royal College of Physicians of London and is a Ph.D from Kings College, London.
* She has extensively engaged with many experts and government officials from the United Kingdom in her work in the multilateral system, notably, WHO.
* As a thought leader in global health, she has been invited on numerous occasions to UK-based universities and other organizations, to speak and for expert consultations. She has co-authored numerous papers with US based colleagues and has served on commissions and task forces with them. She is currently a steering committee member The Emerging Markets Symposium initiative of Oxford University, which convenes thought leaders every year.
* She is extensively published in the UK-based journal, The Lancet and British Medical Journal and her book, Choked Pipes has been published by the Oxford University Press.
* Many organizations in UK have been supportive of her work. DFID has supported her organization, Heartfile. The House of Lords hosted an event in support of her charity program, Heartfile financing, and more recently the Royal Society of Medicine hosted a preview of the documentary which is based on her book, Choked Pipes.
* As Co-Chair of the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity, she has promoted engagement with the food and beverage sector during commission hearings in an attempt to bring them on board. She is pro-public private collaboration and believes in harnessing the potential of the private sector to deliver public goals.
* In April, 2011 Pak-UK formally launched the enhancement of Pakistan-UK strategic dialogue. This is a significant step towards injecting further substance into relations of both countries. In health sector there are total 18 projects funded by DFID out of which 6 projects are in implementation stage and 12 projects are in post completion stage. In disaster sector there are 3 projects in implementation stage and 5 projects are in post completion stage out of total 8 projects related to disaster sector. Similarly, total 7 projects are there related to environment out of which 3 are in implementation stage and 4 projects are in post completion stage. UKaid support for reproductive Health, Nutrition and disease Surveillance in Punjab, KP and federal area is ongoing.
* Pakistan gratefully acknowledges UK’s help in the health sector; your support for the candidature will further strengthen that support.