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Re: Candidacy of Dr. Sania Nishtar, SI, FRCP, Ph.D, for Secretary-General, World Health Organization

To All with Interest in the WHO:

On learning of the candidacy of my good friend Dr. Sania Nishtar for the position of Director-General of the World Health Organization, I was truly overjoyed.

I have known Dr Sania for over 10 years. As a result, she became a great mentor and friend to me personally during my own advocacy role in cancer control as a former Director of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation/Jordan. I am beyond honored to write a few words on Dr Sania in support of her candidacy. This will be in my own personal capacity and is not representative of any organization I either belong to, or is affiliated with.

WHO is a technical agency and should be led by a leader who has a strong professional background. However, with the unprecedented challenges in global health that we are all facing right now; from pandemics, refugees, deteriorating finances and the continuous burden of non-communicable disease that is already underfunded and under managed, WHO also requires a leader who is courageous, committed, has great diplomatic skills and is a relentless champion of civil rights, transparency and accountability.

And Dr Sania has all of these above qualities to move the Global Health Agenda forward. What is unique about Dr Sania's candidacy is this combination of vast array of experiences; as a minister, civil society trailblazer, leader in multilateral institutions, physician scientist, thought leader and founder of institutions. This very experience, gives her an unequalled 360 view point and track record on health systems in low income settings, public health, social protection and public-private engagements.

I have no doubt that Dr Sania is so exceptionally qualified for the position of WHO Director General and will be an outstanding one at that.

Yours Sincerely

DINA Mired