



## Department of Health and Social Care

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**Re: Candidacy of Dr Sania Nishtar, SI, FRCP, Ph.D, for Director-General,  
World Health Organisation**

To All with Interest in the WHO

It gives me great pleasure and a huge sense of pride to be able to comment on Dr Sania Nishtar, nominated for Director-General of the World Health Organisation. I am writing this letter in my capacity as a classmate during Medical School, as someone who trained with her during our first year of residency and as a friend. Having known Sania for just over 30 years, it is no surprise to me at all to note she has been nominated for this most prestigious post. I feel she has all the ingredients of someone who will be ready to take up this post with all the requirements to fulfil the role.

Sania was the best Graduate of the class of 1986. She topped each of our 4 professional examinations, topping almost all the subjects we studied, setting a college record which has remained unbroken to-date. But it is not her intellectual abilities alone for which she stands out as the most suited candidate, but her inter-personal skills and ability to get things done.

There are certain personal attributes that no amount of courses, degrees or certificates will give someone which Sania possesses naturally.

The traits that impress me about her are numerous. This is something I consider essential in a candidate for such an important position. Sania would exude great energy, discretion and flare in taking up such a post. She has a special talent in building relationships and engaging other people. As different artists have different inborn talents, Sania has a talent of bringing people together and bringing the best out of them even in the most challenging environments. Sania has always been someone who thinks with vision and acts decisively in achieving goals which others may feel unattainable. As someone who comes from the developing world, what she has achieved with the limited resources she had at hand is demonstrative of her determination and skill to bring about results. I have known Sania as an excellent communicator, but one that listens and takes advice. She then has the art that creates alignment amongst teams and demonstrates acute awareness of issues both short and long term.

I can say with great sincerity that I have yet to meet or know somebody who is so multitalented and so devoted.



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I strongly believe that in current challenging times WHO would benefit from all these talents which Sania fulfils far better than anyone. I feel she was made for this role for the benefit of humanity in general and for the United Nations to be proud of.

I fully endorse her as an excellent candidate for this position and offer her my sincerest best wishes and success.

Yours faithfully

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