



Dr. Sania Nishtar

TO ALL CONCERNED WITH THE ELECTION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL AT THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, MAY 2017

I have known and worked with Dr. Sania Nishtar for some twenty years. I was happy to learn about her candidacy to the post of Director General of the World Health Organization.

Dr. Nishtar has broad experience in public health, from her pioneering work in Pakistan to many international commitments for global health. In Pakistan she also served as minister. And internationally her work has dealt with many WHO's and other international activities, especially in the field of noncommunicable disease prevention and control, health promotion and many other areas.

Dr Sania Nishtar has good international professional background and large network of international contacts. She has good medical, organizational and diplomatic skills, and can provide dynamic leadership. With this background and her qualifications she is in good position, not only to work with the Member States, but also to link the aims and work of WHO with numerous global players. This is currently extremely important for strengthening the international position of WHO to lead its global health work and to promote sustainable health development in the increasingly challenging international environments.

Dr. Nishtar has also expressed sound opinions about reforming WHO so that the great organization and its competent professionals could better serve good public health and the development in all countries.

With this background Dr. Sania Nishtar would in my opinion be a great person to lead WHO in the international environments of the future.

Yours sincerely

Pekka Puska; professor, Member of Parliament

Past Director General, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland
Past President, International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI)
Past President, World Heart Federation (WHF)
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