NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Thomas Adoyi
tadoyi@publichealth-edu.org
+2349099005502, +2348099005502 office
www.publichealth-edu.org
For release: Monday, October 10, 2022

2022 Academy of Public Health’s Distinguished Fellowship Award Recipients Announced

Abuja — The selection committee of the Academy of Public Health, the flagship body of the West African Institute of Public Health, awards the Distinguished Fellowship of the Academy of Public Health (DFAPH), the highest fellowship rank in the Roll of Fellows of the Academy to The Independent Panel for Pandemic Prevention and Response, that consists of thirteen (13) eminent persons; Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, HE Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Mauricio Cardenas, Aya Chebbi, Mark Dybul, Michel Kazatchkine. The others include Joanne Liu, Precious Matsoso, David Miliband, Thoraya Obaid, Preeti Sudan, Ernesto Zedillo and Zhong Nanshan.

The eminent personalities for the Distinguished Fellowship of the Academy of Public Health (DFAPH) were nominated by the selection committee of the APH, with inputs from the young professionals in public health across Africa, for their demonstrated leadership in working towards ensuring equity, better health and wellbeing for all. They are being recognised for their outstanding work as members of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, a group established by the leadership of the World Health Organisation to provide the world with a clear path for the future and to ensure the world effectively addresses health threats of global proportions, drawing lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic. On May 12 2021, The Independent Panel presented its insightful report with findings and recommendations to guide the world in actions to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic and similar infectious disease outbreak in future.

A brief on each of the Panel Members nominated to the Fellows’ Roll are as follows:

Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, first female Prime Minister of New Zealand and first female Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, is reputed for several feats engaging in several issues social, economic, environmental and cultural implications across the international scene. Not relenting on blazing trails, she continues to serve on several advisory boards and commissions across the world.

HE Helen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa’s first democratically elected female Head of State (in Liberia) and a 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Africa “Iron Lady” is a leading promoter of peace, justice, women’s advancement, democratic rule, among others. Her outstanding work in rebuilding the healthcare system after the 2014 Ebola epidemic did not end after her tenure as President but she continues to
be a leading voice for health care workers and free primary healthcare.

**Mauricio Cardenas** is Colombia’s Former Minister of Finance and Public Credit, who led the country into a social and economic progress, initiating government programmes that resulted into significant reduction of unemployment in Colombia and increase in foreign investment.

**Aya Chebbi** is an indefatigable voice for democracy who rose to prominence during the 2011 Tunisia Revolution. She is the founder of a number of remarkable and internationally-recognised youth-led movements such as *Afrika Youth Movement and Afresist*. She is the first-ever African Union Special Envoy on Youth.

**Mark Dybul**, Professor of Medicine at the Georgetown University Medical Centre and public health chief with expertise that has spanned more than 2 decades and led the conduct of groundbreaking clinical studies such as the first randomized controlled trial (RDT) with combination antiretroviral therapy in Africa. He was one of the founding architects for the formation of the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

**Michel Kazatchkine** has almost 4 decades of impactful work in research, administration, advocacy and health diplomacy. He is a leading Professor of Immunology and has both authored and co-authored over 500 scientific publications. He holds the highest Legion d’Honneur, France’s highest public distinction, among several other national and international awards.

**Joanne Liu** is a tireless and never-cracking voice on medical humanitarian crises who has engaged with leaders and policymakers at the global level in different times. Her work spans from the introduction of comprehensive care for sexual violence survivors to developing a telemedicine platform for connecting doctors in rural areas to specialists worldwide. She is very instrumental to the success of the humanitarian field assignments of Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) all over the world.

**Precious Matsoso**, is a former Director of Public Health Innovation and Intellectual Property (and has held many other positions) at the World Health Organisation, Member- UN High-Level Panel on Access to Health Technologies, among several other high-level panels and committees at the global level which cover areas on public health policy and programmes.

**David Miliband** is a noteworthy figure with great leadership and top-notch contributions to the work of the International Rescue Committee at Washington and several other world capitals, having had a distinguished political career in the United Kingdom. Listed as “one of the ablest, most creative public servants of our time” by former President Bill Clinton, David was in 2016 also named one of the World’s Greatest Leaders by Fortune Magazine.

**Thoraya Obaid**, Saudi Arabian woman of international repute, Thoraya was responsible for the Social and Economic Commission for Western Asia’s early-days programmes on women and development until being appointed as the organisation’s Deputy Executive Secretary. She served at the UNFPA in the years of volatility in Lebanon and has, by nature of her work and fearlessness, had experience of living in war-torn and conflict areas, while also witnessing their adverse effects on the poor. Owing to her impact in international work, she has to her name, several medals, one of which is the King Abdul Aziz Medal of the First Degree.
Preeti Sudan is reputed for India’s health policy and country-wide successful handling of disease outbreaks such as Nipah and Zika. Her notable contributions extend from the successful handling of special assignments in her home state of Andhra Pradesh to the initiation and implementation of country-wide flagship programmes that were not only notable but successful.

Ernesto Zedillo, academic and practitioner of international standards and repute, is Professor (and adjunct Professor) of International Economics, Politics, International Area and Studies, Forestry and Environment. He has served in several committees and panels of international repute, namely; the Inter-American Dialogue, the United Nations High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs, among others.

Zhong Nanshan is a top medical practitioner who has shown great leadership in the Chinese guidelines for the diagnosis and management of several acute diseases. He has achieved significant feats in clinical diagnosis, medication, scientific research governmental strategies. He is the proponent of One World, One Fight to gather all resources possible, to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Distinguished Fellowship recipients lead the Fellows’ Roll for their exceptional leadership and service to humanity in making a difference in the lives of people and inspiring young leaders to also excel in their public health work. The awards committee composed of public health professionals and development experts selected the top nominees by young professionals in public health across Africa.

The Distinguished Fellowship of the Academy of Public Health (with post nominal scripts “DFAPH”) was established by the Academy of Public Health in 2016 as a special fellowship Award for outstanding leaders making impact in public health, especially in ways that will positively impact on health systems in Africa and beyond.

The West African Institute of Public Health, which is the leading regional nonstate health development organisation working in enabling environment, professional development, research, standards, consulting and advisory services., as well as programme implementation. The Academy of Public Health is the faculty of the Institute, which is a membership-based body that focuses on building a strong network of highly skilled and competent public health practitioners. The Institute is also the keeper of the regional charter of public health.

Award recipients are formally being notified of their awards and the date for a hybrid induction workshop is Thursday November 3, 2022 in Abuja, the Nigerian Federal Capital Territory.