ECDAN’s Executive Leadership Council Launched

VIRTUAL LAUNCH, Oct. 27, 2020 — The Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) is pleased to announce the launch of its Executive Leadership Council, which will be the highest governance body for ECDAN. The Executive Leadership Council brings together a group of exceptional leaders that champion support for young children and their families and are committed to advance the field of ECD as a policy and investment priority.

ECDAN’s Executive Leadership Council will be responsible for guiding strategy development, set and accomplish the mission of ECDAN, policy development, monitoring fiscal matters and fundraising, partnership and network building, and monitor performance. The Executive Leadership Council will serve a three-year minimum term, effective today.

The Executive Leadership Council is composed of: regional leaders, representatives from civil society, four ECD regional networks (Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East), multilateral agencies (UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank Group), foundations, and global ECD experts.

The full list of the Executive Leadership Council members (in alphabetical order):

1. Borhene Chakroun
   Director of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division at UNESCO

2. Ghassan Issa
   General Coordinator of the Arab Network for Early Childhood Development (ANECD)

3. Hana Brixi
   Manager for the Human Capital Project at the World Bank Group

4. Joan Lombardi
   International Expert in Child and Family Policy – Early Opportunities

5. Liana Ghent
   Director – International Step by Step Association (ISSA)

6. Lynette Okengo
   Executive Director – Africa Early Childhood Development Network (AfECN)

7. Dr. Muhammad Musa
   Executive Director of BRAC International

8. Nikolaj Gilbert
   President and CEO of PATH

9. Omar Abdi
   Deputy Executive Director for programmes at UNICEF

10. Peter Laugharn
    President and CEO of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

11. Her Royal Highness Princess, Sarah Zeid
    Princess of Jordan and UNHCR Patron for Maternal & Newborn Health, Special Advisor to WFP on Maternal & Child Health and Nutrition, and Co-Convener of the Roadmap to Accelerate Progress for Every Newborn in Humanitarian Settings 2020-2025

12. Sheldon Shaeffer
    Chair of the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) Board of Directors

13. Sherrie Westin
    President of Social Impact and Philanthropy for Sesame Workshop

14. Sneha Sheth
    CEO and co-founder of Dost Education

15. Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab
    Deputy Director General of WHO

The Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) is a global network that connects, gathers, disseminates, and advocates for cross-sector solutions to improve the overall wellbeing of young children and families all around the world, so that every young child is safe, well-nourished, healthy, happy and learning. ECDAN was launched by UNICEF and the World Bank Group at the flagship World Bank Spring Meetings event, “Smart Beginnings for Economies on the Rise” in April 2016, marking a milestone moment for young children. ECDAN is an alliance of over a hundred organizations and networks and over 5,000 members committed to improving the lives of young children from conception to eight years of age around the world.