

# The Impact of Democracy: Colombia August 7-12, 2011



Join NDI as we travel to Colombia to explore its diverse landscape - from the bustling capital city of Bogotá to the colonial walled city of Cartagena on the northern coast. Visit political and civic leaders in urban towns and in the rural coastlands and learn how NDI is working to help underrepresented sectors, including women and Afro-Colombian people, to find their political voice.

## **ITINERARY**

**Day 1:** Travel from the U.S. to Bogotá, arriving in the evening.

**Day 2:** We will meet with NDI staff for a breakfast briefing on the political situation in Colombia. During the morning, we will talk with local groups working to influence elected officials to reform political parties and build a more transparent electoral system. In the afternoon we will meet with women civic and political leaders to discuss their work to include more women in politics. We will gather for a reception that evening with representatives of the United States Embassy and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**Day 3:** We will take an early morning flight to the Caribbean walled city of Cartagena de Indias, where we will attend a training for youth political party activists in the underprivileged neighborhood of El Pozón on how to strengthen their leadership skills in order to promote the modernization and renewal of political parties. In the afternoon we will talk with local leaders about the need for increased Afro-Colombian participation in the political process. In the evening we will have the chance to take a tour of the walled city.

**Day 4:** In the morning we will travel from Cartagena to Quibdó, the riverside capital of the mostly Afro-Colombian department of Chocó. Over lunch, we will meet with women with whom NDI is working to provide leadership training. In a region that has the nation's highest levels of poverty and illiteracy, NDI partners will have the opportunity to discuss with us the creative ways in which they are trying to improve their community. After a tour of Quibdó, NDI will host a dinner that evening with the Afro-Colombian community leaders that are working with NDI in the region. We will spend the night and return to Bogotá in the morning.

**Day 5:** After spending a morning at the market in Chocó and returning to Bogotá, we will have the opportunity to take a tour of the city, visiting the old Bogotá neighborhood of La Candelaria; traveling to the mountaintop sanctuary of Monserrate for a scenic view of the city; and experiencing museums dedicated to gold and to the painter Fernando Botero. Later in the day, NDI will host a closing reception for the participants and local project partners.

**Day 6:** Participants depart for the U.S., or, alternatively, travel to Haiti for a short side trip.

**All travel arrangements and logistics will be handled by NDI. Participants are responsible for all travel costs.**