



2030 M Street, NW, Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 728-5500
fax: (202) 728-5520
mail: contactndi@ndi.org
www.ndi.org

Contact: In Kyiv: Sam Sager: +38(050) 411-4930 / ssager@ndi.org
In Washington, DC: Nelson Ledsky: (202) 728-5500 / nelson@ndi.org

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE DELEGATION ARRIVES TO OBSERVE UKRAINE'S SEPTEMBER 30 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Washington, DC – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) today announced the arrival of its international observer delegation for Ukraine's September 30 Rada elections. Comprised of 30 observers, the delegation includes political and civic leaders, elections experts and regional specialists from North America and Europe. The delegation will be co-led by: **Abner Mikva**, former member of U.S. Congress, White House Counsel and Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals; and **Alexander Longolius**, former president Pro Tem of the Berlin Parliament.

Through the observation mission, NDI seeks to demonstrate international support for, and interest in, a democratic electoral process in Ukraine. The delegation is part of the Institute's long-term program, launched in 1992, to support Ukraine's democratic institutions.

While in Kyiv, the NDI delegation will meet with a diverse group of Ukrainian government officials and electoral authorities, and representatives of political parties, civil society, the media and the international community. This delegation will draw on the experience of NDI pre-election delegation that visited Ukraine from August 14 to August 20 as well as on the experience of domestic civic groups that have witnessed various phases of electoral preparations, including party lists registration, the campaign period, and the general political environment in the lead up to the elections. (Please visit www.ndi.org for a copy of the NDI pre-election assessment missions' statement.)

Teams of NDI delegates will then deploy to the country's oblasts for the September 30 elections. Upon reaching their deployment sites, each observer team will meet with electoral authorities, party and media representatives, and domestic election monitors to assess the electoral environment.

On election day, NDI observers will visit polling stations and counting centers in their respective districts. The NDI observer teams will regroup in Kyiv for debriefing and to prepare a preliminary statement, which will be released at a press conference held at UNIAN on Tuesday, October 2.

The NDI observer mission will conduct its activities in a nonpartisan, professional manner, in accordance with Ukrainian law and the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation. NDI also will remain in close contact with Ukrainian domestic monitoring groups and other international observer delegations throughout the electoral period.

NDI is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. Calling on a global network of volunteer experts, NDI provides practical assistance to political and civic leaders advancing democratic values, practices and institutions. NDI works with democrats in every region to strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. For more information about NDI and its programs, please visit www.ndi.org.