



2030 M Street N.W.  
Fifth Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Phone: (202) 728-5500  
Fax: (202) 728-5520  
<http://www.ndi.org>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 31, 2007

Contact: NDI Country Director for Georgia  
Mary O'Hagan, [ohaganm@ndi.org](mailto:ohaganm@ndi.org), (899)  
566852; or NDI Director of Public Affairs  
Kathy Gest, [kgest@ndi.org](mailto:kgest@ndi.org), (877) 10084.

**NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE DELEGATION ARRIVES TO OBSERVE  
GEORGIA'S JANUARY 5 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) today announced the arrival of its international observer delegation to the January 5 presidential election in the Republic of Georgia. Kim Campbell, former prime minister, defense minister and justice minister of Canada, will head the delegation. The 24-member group includes political and civil leaders, election experts and regional specialists representing seven countries.

The delegation's purpose is to demonstrate the international community's continuing support for democratic processes in Georgia. NDI has been working in the country since 1992 to support the development of the Parliament, political parties and civil society.

In Tbilisi, members of the group will meet with representatives of campaigns, government and election officials as well as representatives of political parties, civil society, the media and the international community. They will also draw on the findings of an NDI pre-election mission that visited Georgia early in December to assess the political environment and preparations for the presidential poll. A copy of that delegation's statement may be found at [http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/2238\\_ge\\_stamt\\_pre-elect\\_121407.pdf](http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/2238_ge_stamt_pre-elect_121407.pdf).

After briefings in Tbilisi, teams of observers will deploy to locations around the country, where they will meet with local electoral authorities, party and media representatives, and domestic election monitors to assess the electoral environment. On election day, the NDI observers will visit polling stations and counting centers in their respective districts. They will then return to Tbilisi for debriefing and to prepare a preliminary statement, which will be released at a press conference scheduled for January 7.

The NDI observer mission will conduct its activities in a nonpartisan, professional manner, in accordance with Georgian law and the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation. The observation delegation is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

NDI is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. The Institute 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](http://www.ndi.org).

###