



‘WOMEN IN POLITICS’ CONFERENCE TO DEVELOP PLATFORM FOR INCREASING WOMEN’S ROLE IN POLITICS

YEREVAN, ARMENIA – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) will host a nationwide conference, “Women in Politics,” on Wednesday and Thursday to develop a women’s policy platform to help increase women’s political representation and participation in Armenia.

About 200 national and regional women leaders from civil society, government, political parties, and academia are expected at the gathering, which is being organized with support from the United States Agency for International Development. The meeting will be held at Ani Plaza Hotel in Yerevan. The first session, from 10am to 1pm, will be open to the media.

Several international women leaders will participate in the conference and speak during the opening session. They include Meryl Frank, U.S. representative to the United Nations Committee on the Status of Women; Marie Yovanovitch, U.S. ambassador to Armenia; Diana Janse, Swedish ambassador to Armenia and Georgia; Robin Carnahan, Missouri secretary of state; and Bladorodna Mingova Krepieva, former Macedonian member of parliament and ambassador to Austria.

With support from these experts and NDI, the conference participants will create a national women’s policy platform designed to remedy some of the barriers to women’s political participation and representation in Armenia. Currently, women hold few leadership positions in government or political parties and are not cultivated as voters, candidates, or organizers.

The platform will be released at a press conference at noon on Friday at the Yerevan Press Club.

The expectation is that women candidates and political parties will incorporate the platform’s policy recommendations into campaigns and that civil society organizations can advocate for its implementation.

The United Nations, British Embassy and British Council in Yerevan have also generously contributed to the conference.

###