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NDI AND IFES DEPLOY INTERNATIONAL ELECTION EXPERTS TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

WASHINGTON, DC – The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) are sending a small team of international election experts to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) this week to assess the feasibility of conducting a review of the results tabulation processes of the November 28 elections.

The mission responds to a request from Congolese political figures seeking assistance in reviewing the results of the disputed and contentious polls.

The experts will examine critical electoral documents, meet with key individuals and consider other information concerning the vote tabulation processes in order to ascertain the extent to which a more complete review of the processes is feasible. They will meet with electoral authorities, major political parties, Congolese and international election observers and others.

“The team will assess the availability of critical data and individuals needed for a broader review of the results tabulation process for the November 28 elections,” said IFES President William Sweeney. “The team will also consider the overall political environment in which such a review would be conducted.”

“The purpose of this mission is to discern whether it is possible to verify the election results through a broader review of the processes and to offer advice about what shape such an effort might take. It is not designed to assist the electoral authorities in tabulating results of legislative races,” said NDI President Kenneth Wollack.

It is anticipated that the team will be in the DRC for approximately three weeks. The mission is funded through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The National Democratic Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan nongovernmental organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. More information is available at www.ndi.org.

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) is an independent, nonprofit leader in election assistance and democracy promotion. Since its founding in 1987, IFES has worked in 135 countries, from developing to mature democracies. For more information, visit www.IFES.org.