



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NDI DELEGATION TO ASSESS ELECTORAL ENVIRONMENT IN GEORGIA

TBILISI – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) today announced that it will conduct a pre-election assessment mission in Georgia from April 28 to May 2 in advance of parliamentary elections scheduled for May 21.

Members of the delegation include Sam Gejdenson, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives and ranking member of the House International Relations Committee; Shlomo Avineri, former director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and director of the Institute for European Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Peter Eicher, former deputy director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR); Laura Jewett, NDI regional director for Eurasia; and Mary O'Hagan, NDI senior resident country director.

The delegation will assess the status of electoral preparations, the conduct of the campaign by electoral participants, and the general electoral environment through a series of meetings with government officials, parliamentary candidates, political party leaders, election authorities, and representatives of civil society, the media and the international community.

The delegation's assessment criteria will include the terms of the recently announced Code of Conduct for Party Activists that to date has been signed by NDI and nine Georgian political parties.

The NDI pre-election assessment delegation will release a report highlighting its findings at the conclusion of the mission.

An earlier NDI delegation visited Georgia in December to observe preparations for the Jan. 5 presidential election. Its report may be found at http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/2238_ge_stamt_pre-elect_121407.pdf. The Institute also fielded an international observer delegation that was deployed around the country to observe the January presidential polling. It issued a report on Jan. 7. http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/2258_ge_statement_elections_010708.pdf.

Funding for the pre-election assessment mission has been provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

NDI is a non-profit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness, and accountability in government. More information is available at www.ndi.org.

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