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NDI SURVEY PROVIDES VIEW OF POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN GEORGIA

TBILISI – A survey of political opinion in Georgia, released today by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), shows that jobs, rising prices and territorial integrity are the top three priority issues for Georgian citizens, who also believe that politicians are not talking enough about jobs and rising prices.

In the survey, 61 percent of Georgians mentioned jobs, 39 percent mentioned rising prices and 38 percent mentioned territorial integrity as their priority issues. Meanwhile, 55 percent of Georgians said that politicians are not talking enough about jobs and 62 percent said they are not talking enough about rising prices.

Speaking at a press briefing, Luis Navarro, NDI's country director in Georgia, said, "Georgian citizens are looking to elected officials and political parties to address the issues of greatest concern to them."

The results reflect data collected March 4-17 in face-to-face interviews with a nationwide representative sample of 2,893 Georgians. The survey looks at issues of public importance, perceptions of democracy and attitudes towards reforms, as well as various domestic and foreign policy issues.

Asked whether Georgia is a democracy now, 44 percent of Georgians said no compared to 39 percent who said yes. In response to the same question from NDI's July 2010 survey, 46 percent of Georgians said no and 33 percent said yes.

NDI's survey work was funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and carried out by Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC).

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NDI is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan 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.