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**NDI ANNOUNCES SPEAKERS FOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERS PROGRAM
DURING DENVER CONVENTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Current and former government officials from the United States and abroad, diplomats, scholars, journalists, and advocates will take part in the National Democratic Institute’s (NDI) International Leaders Forum (ILF) during the Democratic convention in Denver Aug. 24-28.

More than 500 international leaders from over 100 countries will attend the program, which will focus on the workings of the U.S. political system, domestic and foreign policy issues, enhancing the U.S. role in the world, combating global poverty, and a media view of the presidential election campaign, among other topics.

Among those speaking during the week-long series of bipartisan panel discussions are former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, NDI chairman; former Vice President Walter Mondale; the foreign policy advisors to Senator Barack Obama; James Wolfensohn, former president of the World Bank; John Danilovich, CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corporation; former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle; former heads of state and government from countries in Latin America, the Middle East, North America and Europe; Obiageli “Oby” Ezekwesili, vice president for the Africa Region of the World Bank; journalists Tom Brokaw, moderator of “Meet the Press,” and Paul Gigot and Cynthia Tucker, editorial page editors respectively of *The Wall Street Journal* and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; and actor/director and advocate Ben Affleck. The full list of panelists appears below.

Former Governor Mark Warner of Virginia, a member of the NDI board, will speak at the ILF closing luncheon.

NDI has organized an International Leaders Forum at every Democratic convention since 1984. This year’s participants include current and former heads of state, speakers of parliament, elected officials, cabinet ministers, political party leaders and more than 100 ambassadors from the Washington-based diplomatic corps.

“The International Leaders Forum gives political leaders from around the world a unique opportunity to observe American democracy first-hand while hearing from a wide range of experts from the U.S. and abroad,” Albright said. “Our goal is to highlight the best of our democratic tradition, provide our guests with a better understanding of America's political process and encourage dynamic discussion about the future of democracy across the globe.”

In addition to taking part in the panel discussions, participants will observe the convention proceedings and have the rare opportunity to exchange ideas informally with their counterparts from around the world while getting a first-hand view of an American national political convention.

“Participation in the ILF reinforces the work that NDI does with political parties, government institutions, civic organizations and others to support open and accountable government,” said Kenneth Wollack, president of NDI. “The Institute is dedicated to bringing people together to share ideas, experiences and expertise.”

ILF is privately funded by donations from individuals, foundations and corporations. A number of the events are being carried out in cooperation with other organizations and institutions.

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

Coverage of ILF events is open to media with credentials to cover the Democratic convention.

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