



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NDI WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL VISITORS
DURING DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Democratic Institute (NDI) announced today that it will host more than 300 diplomats and political leaders from more than 100 countries in Charlotte, N.C., at this year’s Democratic National Convention. The visitors are part of NDI’s International Leaders Forum (ILF), which the Institute has hosted during every Democratic National Convention since 1984.

NDI’s guests include current and former heads of state, cabinet ministers, members of parliament, political party leaders and more than 100 ambassadors who are members of the Washington-based diplomatic corps.

“This unique program gives leaders from around the world and across the political spectrum the opportunity to see the American democratic process at work first hand,” said former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, chairman of NDI. “We hope our visitors will gain a better understanding of the U.S. political system and that their experiences in Charlotte will spark meaningful conversations at home about the future of democracy in their own countries.”

In addition to observing the convention proceedings, participants will take part in a series of bipartisan panel discussions covering topics that include the U.S. political process, foreign and domestic policy issues, and media coverage of the presidential race. They will also have the opportunity to exchange ideas informally with counterparts from other countries.

“NDI is proud to once again welcome so many distinguished guests from around the world,” said Kenneth Wollack, president of NDI. “Opportunities like this that foster the exchange of ideas and expertise can help promote more open, accountable governments. ILF reinforces the work that NDI carries out with political parties, parliaments, civic organizations and others around the globe.”

ILF is privately funded by donations from individuals, foundations and corporations.

NDI’s convention programs, which will be held at Charlotte’s Belk Theater, are open to media and to the public. Media credentials will be issued upon sign-in at the Belk. Free tickets for the public may be reserved [here](#) and are required for admittance.

A copy of the ILF schedule appears below.

NDI is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. For more information about NDI and the International Leaders Forum, please visit our website, www.ndi.org.

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International Leaders Forum Schedule of Events

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

10:00 am – 10:15 am **Introduction to the International Leaders Forum**

10:15 am – 11:30 am **“The 2012 Campaign: The Role of Primaries, Nominating Conventions and Presidential Debates”**

11:45 am – 1:00 pm **“Campaign 2012 in Ads, Anecdotes and Media Perspectives with Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski”**

A program organized with MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” show

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm **“Democracy Spotlight” Series**

A program organized with Google Inc.

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm **“How They Would Govern”**

A program organized with the American Enterprise Institute and the Bipartisan Policy Center

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

10:00 am – 11:30 am **“New Frontiers in Polling”**

11:45 pm – 1:00 pm **“21st Century Campaigns”**

A program organized with Google Inc.

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm **“Democracy Spotlight” Series**

A program organized with Google Inc.

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm **“Equality and Economic Opportunity in 21st Century Cities: Lessons from the U.S. and Around the World”**

A program organized with the Charlotte in 2012 Host Committee, the Center for American Progress Action Fund and the United States Conference of Mayors

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

10:00 am – 11:15 am **“Global Responses to Poverty and Human Development”**

A program organized with ONE

11:30 am – 11:45 am **“Democracy Spotlight” Series**

A program organized with Google Inc.

11:45 am – 1:15 pm **“The Next Administration and the U.S. Role in the World”**

A program organized with the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition