



News Release

National Democratic Institute
For International Affairs

1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Suite 605
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 328-3136
Telex 5106015068 NDIIA

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
PATRICIA KEEFER 202/328-3136
SUE GRABOWSKI 202/328-3136

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN LAUNCHED

WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 24, 1988 -- Women political leaders from seven countries announced the formation of the International Institute for Women's Political Leadership (IIWPL). Announcement of the nonpartisan Institute was made at a forum tonight at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

The Institute's newly-elected president, former Congresswoman and vice-presidential candidate, Geraldine Ferraro, said, "We intend to build a nonpartisan international forum where prominent women leaders can work together to strengthen democratic institutions by promoting greater participation for women. We want to offer practical and educational assistance to women entering civic and political life."

Joining Ferraro at this forum were seven other members of the Institute's board of directors. They are: Victoria Garron de Doryan, second vice president of Costa Rica; Astrid N. Heiberg, Member of Parliament, Norway; Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, former minister of finance, Liberia; Phyllis Kaminsky, director, U.N. Information Center in Washington, DC; Maria Rosa de

- more -

Martini, president of Conciencia, an Argentine civic education group; Carmen Saenz de Phillips, former president, National Party of Chile; and Susanne Wood, former president of the National Party of New Zealand.

The Institute will monitor the progress of political parties in bringing women into politics. The women leaders also plan to share successful political strategies and models from their own experience, offering technical assistance and political training to women. The group's initial office will open in Washington, DC. Most of its work is expected to be conducted through regional workshops.

The Institute was formed after a year of work that began with the First Eleanor Roosevelt International Caucus of Women Political Leaders. At the Caucus, 62 women from more than 40 countries shared their experiences and the desire to form an organization to increase women's political participation around the world. The Caucus, held in San Francisco in March 1987, was sponsored by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

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