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NEW NDI GUIDE DESIGNED TO HELP ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS

WASHINGTON, DC – Calling on its 25 years of experience helping to promote international electoral integrity, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) released a new guide this week to aid the development of election laws and legal frameworks for democratic elections. The guide is designed to assist leaders of political parties and civic organizations, legislative drafters, electoral authorities, journalists and representatives of international organizations.

NDI, which has worked on election law efforts in more than 40 countries, said that the “rules of the game” and how they are carried out can greatly affect electoral outcomes, and establishing rules should be of vital concern to political parties, candidates and citizens alike.

The 141-page publication, *Promoting Legal Frameworks for Democratic Elections: An NDI Guide for Developing Election Laws and Law Commentaries*, addresses the links between analysis of, advocacy for and implementation of legal frameworks for elections. It presents key international principles underpinning democratic elections and sets forth practical tools for analyzing electoral frameworks. It also includes a compilation of case decisions by international tribunals concerning democratic elections.

“Elections are organized explicitly to ascertain and honor the people’s will as to who should occupy elected office. To ensure this, citizens and parties need to be knowledgeable about legal frameworks, engage in their development and monitor their implementation,” said Patrick Merloe, NDI senior associate and director of electoral programs. “We hope this guide will serve as a tool for those who seek to safeguard electoral integrity in their countries.”

Electronic copies of the guide are available in English on the NDI website, www.ndi.org. Hard copies are available by request. NDI has published a series of guides for monitoring elements of election processes, which are available on the NDI website.

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.

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