



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS TO DISCUSS WOMEN AND POLITICS WITH MADELEINE ALBRIGHT AND JUDY WOODRUFF**

WASHINGTON, DC – How political parties and parliaments can help promote women’s political participation will be the subject of a panel discussion with international experts hosted by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) on March 22 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ritz Carlton hotel at 1150 22<sup>nd</sup> St., NW.

NDI Chairman Madeleine K. Albright and Judy Woodruff, co-anchor and senior correspondent on the PBS NewsHour, will lead the discussion, entitled “Parties to Parliament: How Women Can Win in the Institutions of Democracy.”

The panel will be followed by the 2012 Madeleine K. Albright Grant Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, where Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz will deliver the keynote address and Melanne Verwee, the State Department’s ambassador-at-large for global women’s issues, will also speak. At the luncheon, NDI will honor the Women’s Discussion Club of Kyrgyzstan, the 2012 recipient of the Madeleine K. Albright Grant.

Panelists for the discussion on women and political parties are:

**Winnie Byanyima**, director of the gender team at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

**Donald Steinberg**, deputy administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development;

**Sherry Rehman**, ambassador to the United States from Pakistan; and

**Anders B. Johnsson**, secretary general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

At the event, NDI and the UNDP will release a joint publication entitled "Empowering Women for Stronger Political Parties." The guide provides strategies for those who work in and with political parties to increase women's political participation as candidates, party members, leaders and office holders.

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 about the dinner and about NDI is available at [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org).

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