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NDI DELEGATION TO OBSERVE APRIL 16 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NIGERIA

ABUJA, NIGERIA – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) announced today that it will field an international observation mission for Nigeria’s presidential election on April 16.

The mission builds on the experiences and findings of an international delegation that NDI mobilized to observe the just completed Nigerian parliamentary elections on April 9. The preliminary findings of that delegation were issued on April 11 and can be found on NDI’s website at www.ndi.org.

Leading the upcoming delegation will be Joe Clark, former prime minister of Canada; Mahamane Ousmane, former president of Niger and former speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament; Robin Carnahan, secretary of state of Missouri; and Christopher Fomunyoh, NDI senior associate and regional director for Central and West Africa. Clark, Ousmane and Fomunyoh were members of the observation mission to the just completed legislative polls.

The delegation includes long-term observers who have been in the country since January monitoring election preparations, including the voter registration process and the campaign period. The delegation will issue a preliminary statement after the poll.

In preparation for the April 16 observation, delegation members will meet with senior government and election officials, political party representatives, candidates, citizen election monitors, civil society leaders and media representatives.

Through both observation missions, NDI seeks to demonstrate the interest of the international community in the development of the democratic political process and governance in Nigeria, and to present an accurate and impartial assessment of the political environment and activities surrounding and including the April 9 and April 16 polls.

The missions build on a [pre-election assessment](#) that NDI conducted in October, during which the Institute noted the heightened interest and determination among Nigerians to overcome a history of past flawed elections. At the time, NDI identified a number of issues that should be addressed to ensure a credible election process.

The Institute's election observation will be carried out in accordance with the [Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation](#), which is endorsed by 36 intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and was launched at the United Nations in 2005. The mission builds upon NDI's 25 years of experience observing more than 200 elections around the world.

The Institute's election observation mission in Nigeria is funded through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

NDI has been working in Nigeria since 1999 and has fielded international observation missions to previous elections there in 1999, 2003 and 2007. The Institute also is conducting other election support activities with the support of USAID and the United Kingdom Department for International Development. These include a program to help Nigerian civic groups train and deploy about 15,000 citizen observers. This effort includes Project 2011 Swift Count, an initiative in which observers will conduct a parallel vote tabulation (PVT).

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