



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 8, 2010

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NDI DELEGATION TO ASSESS PRE-ELECTION ENVIRONMENT IN NIGERIA

ABUJA, Nigeria – The National Democratic Institute (NDI), is conducting a pre-election assessment of Nigeria’s preparations for presidential and national elections scheduled for early 2011.

The five-day assessment, Oct. 11 -15, reflects the interest of the international community in and its support for Nigeria’s electoral process.

The delegation will be co-led by Sir Ketumile Masire, former president of Botswana, and the Right Honourable Joe Clark, former prime minister of Canada. Other members of the delegation include Christiana Thorpe, chairman of the Sierra Leone Election Commission; Peter Lewis, director of the African studies program at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University; Nazmul Kazimullah civil rights activist and professor at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh; Christopher Fomunyoh, NDI senior associate and regional director for Central and West Africa; and Barrie Freeman, NDI deputy regional director for Central and West Africa.

The delegation will assess the state of preparations for the 2011 elections, including the legal and political environment, through a series of meetings with the Independent National Electoral Commission, presidential candidates, political party leaders, members of the National Assembly, and representatives of civil society, the media, the international community and government.

Following completion of the assessment, the delegation will present its findings at a press conference on Friday, Oct. 15, in Abuja.

The delegation will conduct its activities in a nonpartisan manner in accordance with applicable law and international standards for election monitoring set forth in the [Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation](#).

Over the last 25 years, the Institute has conducted more than 200 election observation missions worldwide, including fielding international observation delegations for the 1999, 2003 and 2007 Nigerian elections. Since 1999 the Institute has been conducting a legislative strengthening program with the Nigerian National Assembly, and recently provided technical support to the work of the Nigerian Electoral Reform Committee, led by retired Justice Mohammed Uwais between 2008 and 2009.

The National Democratic Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 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.

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