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**Embargo Until October 1, 2019**

### **The National Democratic Institute Convenes Summit in Niger Focused on Presidential Constitutional Term Limits in Africa**

**October 1, 2019, Niamey, Niger** - The National Democratic Institute (NDI) in partnership with the Africa Forum; the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA); and the Kofi Annan Foundation will jointly host the *Constitutional Term Limits Summit* from **October 2-4** in Niamey, Niger. AllAfrica Global Media has been selected as the official media partner.

For three days, key stakeholders from across Africa will address one of the pressing challenges to democratic progress on the continent - the erosion of the constitutional rule of law by extending and amending presidential term limits. Panel discussions will allow leaders to share their experiences and tell their stories to underscore real-life experiences and case studies of democratic progress made in Africa and challenges still to be overcome. Participants will issue a Declaration of Principles as a tool to empower Africans to hold leaders accountable and have them adhere to constitutional term limits.

*“NDI is honored to provide this opportunity for civic leaders and African Statesmen to come together to build consensus around term limits, a major issue facing the continent and impacting democratic progress,”* stated Derek Mitchell, President of NDI.

The official Summit will kickoff with an opening ceremony on October 2 with African dignitaries committed to democracy in Africa. The President of the Republic of Niger, His Excellency **Mahamadou Issoufou** will preside over the opening ceremony. Special guests will include former Presidents **Goodluck Jonathan** (Nigeria); **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** (Liberia, \*participating remotely); **Nicéphore Soglo** (Benin); **Amos Sawyer** (Liberia); **Mahamane Ousmane** (Niger); and **Catherine Samba-Panza** (Central African Republic).

*“The Constitutional Term Limits Summit comes at a critical time when Africa’s democratic progress is facing new challenges and democratic backsliding is becoming more prominent. The Summit will provide an opportunity for leaders and activists on the continent to ensure that progress made through renewal of political leadership through the ballot box is sustained and encouraged,”* stated Dr. Chris Fomunyoh, Senior Associate for Africa and Regional Director at NDI.



The Constitutional Term Limits Summit will mark the launch of a program to support political leaders and civil society advocacy for the respect of presidential term limits across Africa. Over the past two decades, Africa has made notable progress in achieving democratic and peaceful transitions of executive power. However, some leaders on the continent have and/or are planning to extend their tenure by altering or eliminating constitutional term limits. For more information about the Constitutional Term Limits Initiative, please visit [termlimits.ndi.org](http://termlimits.ndi.org).

For press credentials to attend the Constitutional Term Limits Summit and opening ceremony, please contact Toyin Awesu at [tawesu@ndi.org](mailto:tawesu@ndi.org) or +1202-378-4493.

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### **About NDI**

The National Democratic Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization that has supported democratic institutions and practices in every region of the world. For over 35 years, NDI and its local partners have worked to establish and strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government.

### **About the Africa Forum**

The Africa forum is a network of former African Heads of State who have met certain criteria for democratic leadership. The Executive Secretariat of the organization is based in Pretoria, South Africa.

### **About OSIWA**

OSIWA's mission is to enable open societies and inclusive democratic governance that are based on transparent and accountable institutions and an active citizenry. OSIWA's values define, guide and govern our behavior within the Foundation and with our grantees and partners.

### **About The Kofi Annan Foundation**

The Kofi Annan Foundation mobilises political will to overcome threats to peace, development and human rights. In most cases the expertise and evidence needed to solve pressing problems such as poverty, armed conflict and poor governance already exist. What holds us back is lack of leadership or political will to identify and deliver solutions. The Foundation mobilises those who are in a position to influence and bring leadership to the world's most pressing problems.

### **About AllAfrica Global Media**

AllAfrica is a voice of, by and about Africa - aggregating, producing and distributing 700 news and information items daily from over 140 African news organizations and our own reporters to an African and global public. We operate from Cape Town, Dakar, Abuja, Monrovia, Nairobi and Washington DC.