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**NEW NDI GUIDE ON MONITORING ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES
DESIGNED TO HELP ENSURE INTERNATIONAL ELECTORAL INTEGRITY**

WASHINGTON, DC – Calling on its more than 20 years of international experience in election observation, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) has released a new guide on monitoring electronic technologies to help political parties, civic organizations, journalists and election officials to better ensure the integrity of elections.

Electronic voting and results tabulation, electronic voter registration and other applications are expanding rapidly around the world, creating new challenges for organizing valid elections and for election monitoring. The publication, *Monitoring Electronic Technologies in Electoral Processes: An NDI Guide for Political Parties and Civic Organizations*, outlines issues concerning the use of electronic technologies in elections and highlights the needs for participation in decision making about whether to employ electronic technologies and for establishing transparency in development, certification, security, costs and other matters. It also identifies questions that cannot be resolved at this time concerning some electronic technologies.

“It is essential that election processes be transparent so voters and contestants know they are honest,” 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 when electronic technologies are a factor in their countries.”

The guide will help political parties, civic organizations, election officials and others to better understand new technologies, the potential challenges they pose to electoral integrity, issues regarding whether to introduce electronic technologies, and the need for electoral transparency.

NDI has published a series of guides for monitoring elements of election processes, which are available on the NDI website. The Institute was recognized recently for its innovative use of SMS messaging in election monitoring and was cited as a pioneer in the use of the Internet to change politics by PoliticsOnline and the World E-Gov Forum, based on votes from online activists and Internet users worldwide.

Electronic copies of the guide are available in English on the NDI website, <http://www.ndi.org/globalp/elections/programselc/manuals.asp#techreport>. Hard copies are available by request.

NDI is a non-profit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness, and accountability in government. More information is available at www.ndi.org.

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