



**CEPPS/NDI Quarterly Reports: January 1 to March 31, 2005  
USAID Cooperative Agreement No. DGC-A-00-01-00004-00**

**BUILDING CONSENSUS ON PRINCIPLES FOR ELECTION OBSERVATION AND  
STANDARDS FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS (04532)**

**Project Dates: October 1, 2003 to December 31, 2005  
Total Budget: \$103,000.00 Expenses to date: \$59,190.50**

The Building Consensus on Principles for Election Observation Project seeks to address concerns among international actors about varying standards and practices among international observer organizations. The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD) and The Carter Center (TCC) are cooperating as partners in organizing a process aimed at building consensus among the major intergovernmental and international nongovernmental organizations involved in international election observation about best practices, methodologies and professionalism in international election observation. The goal of the initiative is to commonly endorse a Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and a Code of Conduct for International Election Observers.

The Declaration of Principles and Code of Conduct would normalize the process by which international election observation is organized and would create the basis for removing inconsistencies in methodologies and findings of election observation missions. The Declaration and Code would also help the public in the country holding elections, media and international donors to distinguish between credible observation and unreliable observation missions. They may also help to curtail antidemocratic governments from blocking election observation by credible organizations.

In the past quarter, NDI maintained regular communication with the 17 participating intergovernmental and international nongovernmental organizations from around the world to collect final comments and suggested changes to the Draft Declaration of Principles and Code of Conduct. In response to those interactions, NDI secured approval from UNEAD and TCC on the final version of the Declaration and Code of Conduct as well as an accompanying letter that will outline the official endorsement process for the participating organizations. NDI also communicated regularly with UNEAD and TCC to discuss possible dates for the follow-up meeting at the UN in New York, which most likely will be in late July 2005.

In addition, NDI participated in the Workshop on Automated Voting: Challenges and Lessons for Election Observation, organized by The Carter Center. The meeting, held in Atlanta on March 17-18, 2005, focused on the challenges of observing automated voting. The participants

discussed the political and operational implications of electronic voting as well as lessons learned from international observation missions to countries utilizing this technology such as Kazakhstan and Venezuela. NDI Senior Advisor Keith Jennings, and NDI Senior Program Officer Vladimir Pran participated in the Atlanta meeting. They, along with TCC, informed the participants of the joint initiative undertaken by NDI, TCC and UNEAD and solicited their feedback regarding ways to address the challenges presented by automated voting in the Declaration and Code of Conduct. Specific provisions concerning observation of electronic electoral technologies were added to the Declaration of Principles as a result of the meeting.

In the next quarter, NDI will circulate the Declaration of Principles and Code of Conduct for the official endorsement processes of the participating organizations. NDI will also continue, in cooperation with UNEAD and TCC, to assist the participating organizations in their internal endorsement processes as requested. NDI, in consultation with UNEAD and TCC, expects that the participating organizations will meet at the United Nations in New York in late July 2005. This meeting will commemorate the endorsements of the Declaration of Principles to date and discuss future challenges for ensuring the integrity of international election observation. The documents will remain open for endorsement by additional organizations after the meeting at the UN, which endorsements will be lodged with UNEAD.

A final meeting is scheduled to be held with representatives of the endorsing organizations and international donor agencies by the end of 2005 to review donor coordination and donor's roles in facilitating effectiveness and integrity of international election observation.

## **PROMOTING LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS (02525)**

**Project Dates: July 30, 2002 to December 31, 2005**  
**Total Budget: \$21,000.00 Expenses to date: \$293.78**

During the last quarter NDI staff continued reviewing and finalizing sections of the text and appendices in light of developments the field. NDI expects to update and finalize the text and appendices in the next quarter. By October, the guidebook would be fully formatted and submitted to a printer for publication.

The guide will be a tool for legal, civic and political practitioners seeking to review, draft and comment on election laws in order to improve the content of and processes for establishing the legal frameworks for elections. It will be distributed broadly to civic organizations and political parties engaged in law reform efforts, as well as to NDI's pro bono legal network, field staff and other interested parties, in addition to USAID missions and other interested parties.

**DISCUSSION PAPER SERIES ON THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES (03530)**

**Project Dates: September 1, 2003 to March 30, 2005**

**Total Budget: \$110,000.00 Expenses to date: \$40,790.67**

In the last quarter, NDI continued to develop a series of discussion papers that explore the role of political parties in democratic systems. NDI organized a writers' conference in Washington, D.C., on February 11, 2005, where the authors presented their draft papers to a small group of political party experts and experienced democracy assistance practitioners. All of the authors are now working to incorporate the feedback from the writer's conference, as well as from the advisory board and NDI senior staff members. The complete drafts are due to NDI in early summer.

NDI also respectfully requested a no-cost extension of the program until October 31, 2005.