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THE CARTER CENTER



PRESS RELEASE

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and The Carter Center Pre-Election Assessment Delegation Arrival Statement

Abuja, 15 November 2002

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and The Carter Center (TCC) are pleased to announce the arrival of a pre-election delegation to Nigeria to assess preparations for the 2003 general elections. The delegation will be based in Abuja from 17-22 November 2002.

The delegation will be comprised of the Honorable Hage Geingob, former Prime Minister of Namibia, Barrie Hofmann, NDI Deputy Director for Central and West Africa, Charles Costello, Director, Democracy Program at The Carter Center, Ron Gould, former Assistant Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Canada and Wayne Propst, Nigeria Country Director, NDI.

In the course of this assessment, the NDI/TCC delegation will meet with political party leaders, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), government officials, civil society representatives, journalists and members of the international community. The delegation's arrival in Nigeria follows the work of an advance team that has conducted meetings with election stakeholders in eight states over the course of 7-15 November. NDI and The Carter Center wish to thank those who have contributed to its work by meeting with members of the delegation and advance team.

Following completion of the delegation's schedule, the delegation will present its findings at a press conference on November 22 in Abuja.

NDI and The Carter Center, under the leadership of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, jointly monitored the 1998/99 elections that led to Nigeria's successful transition to civilian rule in May 1999. Since those historic elections, both NDI and TCC have remained engaged in Nigeria. NDI works primarily with the National Assembly and the Nigeria Governors Forum, while the Carter Center has supported a number of dynamic health care projects, including a highly successful program to eradicate Guinea Worm throughout the country.

Please direct all inquires to Mr. Joseph Bodunrin Adebo, Senior Program Assistant, NDI, at 234 9 523 3341/42