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NDI FIELDS PRE-ELECTION ASSESSMENT MISSION FOR ALGERIA'S MAY 10 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

ALGIERS, ALGERIA – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) today began an international pre-election assessment mission to evaluate the pre-election environment in Algeria in advance of May 10 parliamentary elections. The multinational delegation includes Carole James, member of the legislative assembly in British Columbia (Canada); Irena Hadziabdic, president of the European Association of Election Officials (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Mohamed Anis Ghodbane, vice president of communications for *l'Association Tunisienne pour l'Eveil Démocratique* (Tunisia); Sarah Johnson, assistant director of the democracy program at The Carter Center (U.S.); and Jeffrey England, NDI/Morocco resident country director (U.S).

The purposes of the delegation are to express the international community's support for democratic governance and the conduct of competitive multiparty elections in Algeria, and to provide an impartial and accurate report on the electoral process to the Algerian people and the international community. NDI's pre-election mission will be followed by the deployment of long-term observers, who will remain in Algeria through election day and the immediate post-election period.

During the pre-election mission, delegation members will meet with senior government officials, election administrators, political party representatives, civil society leaders, media representatives, candidates, and representatives of the international community. The delegation will present its findings at a press conference in Algiers on Thursday, April 5.

The delegation will conduct its activities in a nonpartisan manner in accordance with Algerian law and international standards for election monitoring set forth in the <u>Declaration of</u> <u>Principles for International Election Observation</u>. The Institute will coordinate its observation activities with other observer groups, including the delegation from the European Union.

The National Democratic Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan nongovernmental organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. More information is available at <u>www.ndi.org</u>.