



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NDI ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL LEADERS FORUM
DURING CHARLOTTE CONVENTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Democratic Institute (NDI) today announced the speakers that will take part in its International Leaders Forum (ILF) program during the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte Sept. 4-6.

They include former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, NDI chairman; Senator John Kerry; former Senator Tom Daschle; Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski of MSNBC; John Heilemann, *New York* magazine; Mark Halperin, *TIME*; Eugene Robinson, *The Washington Post*; Ryan Lizza, *The New Yorker*; Sam Stein, *The Huffington Post*; John Podesta, former White House chief of staff; Michèle Flournoy, former U.S. undersecretary of defense; Howard Dean, former Democratic National Committee (DNC) chairman; Frank Fahrenkopf, former Republican National Committee (RNC) chairman and co-chairman of the Commission on Presidential Debates; Paul Kirk, co-chairman emeritus of the Commission on Presidential Debates, former U.S. senator and former DNC chairman; Michael Steele, former RNC chairman; pollsters Peter Hart, Stan Greenberg, Andrew Kohut and Whit Ayres; Vin Weber, former U.S. representative; David Drummond, Google; and the mayors of Charlotte, Philadelphia and Houston.

These and other speakers will participate in a series of bipartisan panel discussions covering topics such as the U.S. political process, domestic and foreign policy issues, and media coverage of the presidential race. The panels are organized as part of NDI's International Leaders Forum, which will host nearly 400 guests from more than 100 countries, including current and former heads of state, ministers, members of parliament, heads of political parties and U.S.-based ambassadors from around the world.

“The International Leaders Forum brings together political leaders and experts with diverse backgrounds to encourage discussion about critical issues facing democracy, both in the U.S. and

abroad,” Albright said. “We hope these bipartisan panels will provide a nuanced and constructive dialogue about topics that affect all of our participants.”

NDI’s international guests also will observe the convention proceedings, gaining first-hand knowledge of the U.S. democratic process, and have the opportunity to share information with their counterparts from around the world.

“We are delighted to bring together such a distinguished group of ILF guests and panel participants to continue NDI’s tradition of political dialogue in support of democracy,” said Kenneth Wollack, president of NDI. “This is a unique opportunity for our international friends to learn from each other and from the U.S. political process.”

ILF is privately funded by donations from individuals, foundations and corporations.

NDI’s convention programs at Charlotte’s Belk Theater are open to media and to the public. Media credentials will be issued upon sign-in at the Belk. Free tickets for the public may be reserved [here](#) and are required for admittance. Live streaming of the panel events will be available at: www.ndi.org/live.

NDI is a nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization that supports and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. For more information about NDI and the International Leaders Forum, please visit our website, www.ndi.org.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(All events are in the Belk Theatre, 130 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC)

Tuesday, September 4

10 - 10:15 a.m.

Introduction to the International Leaders Forum

Speakers: Madeleine K. Albright, former secretary of state and chairman, NDI; Kenneth Wollack, president, NDI; Dan Murrey, executive director, Charlotte in 2012 Host Committee

10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

“The 2012 Campaign: The Role of Primaries, Nominating Conventions and Presidential Debates”

Panelists discuss important facets of the 2012 presidential selection process.

Panelists: Frank Fahrenkopf, former chairman of the RNC and co-chairman of the Commission on Presidential Debates; Paul Kirk, former senator, co-chairman emeritus of the Commission on

Presidential Debates, and former DNC chairman; Howard Dean, former governor of Vermont and former DNC chairman; and Elaine Kamarck, Harvard lecturer, former Clinton White House senior policy advisor

Moderator: Eugene Robinson, columnist and Pulitzer prize winner, *The Washington Post*

11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. **“Campaign 2012 in Ads, Anecdotes and Media Perspectives with Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski”**

A program organized with MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” show

MSNBC talk show hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski recreate the “Morning Joe” show featuring regular contributors discussing the campaign period, including how the nominations and campaigns have been covered from a media perspective.

Panelists: Mark Halperin, senior political analyst for *TIME* magazine, Time.com and MSNBC, co-author of “Game Change;” John Heilemann, national affairs editor and columnist for *New York* magazine and NYMag.com, and co-author of “Game Change;” Sam Stein, political reporter at *The Huffington Post*; Michael Steele, former chairman of the RNC

3 - 3:15 p.m. **"Democracy Spotlight" Series**

A program organized with Google Inc.

Dynamic global thought leaders discuss and demonstrate how information and communications technology is being used to strengthen democracy.

Speaker: Marietje Schaake, European Parliament

3:15 - 4:45 p.m. **"How They Would Govern"**

A program organized with the American Enterprise Institute and the Bipartisan Policy Center

Panelists cover how a next administration would turn campaign promises into reality, including working with Congress and setting priorities, all within the context of our contemporary political process and challenges in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Panelists: Tom Daschle, former U.S. Senate majority leader, co-chair, ONE Vote 2012 and vice chair, NDI; Vin Weber, former U.S. representative and former chairman of the National Endowment for Democracy; John Podesta, chair and counselor of the Center for American Progress, former White House chief of staff under President Bill Clinton; Ryan Lizza, Washington correspondent for *The New Yorker*; Scot Lehigh, columnist for *The Boston Globe*

Moderators: Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American

Enterprise Institute; John Fortier, director of the Democracy Project at the Bipartisan Policy Center

Wednesday, September 5

10 - 11:30 a.m. **"New Frontiers in Polling"**

Leading pollsters/analysts will discuss findings of public opinion research regarding the 2012 presidential election. They will review and analyze how voter sentiment is shaping the campaigns and, in turn, how the campaigns are trying to influence voter sentiment when it comes to defining issues, characterizing candidates, and communicating messages. The panel will feature clips from a nonpartisan focus group in the swing state of Wisconsin.

Panelists: Peter Hart, chairman of Peter D. Hart Research Associates; Stan Greenberg, CEO of Greenberg Quinlan Rosner; Andrew Kohut, president, Pew Research Center; Whit Ayres, president, North Star Opinion Research

Moderator: Katty Kay, BBC

11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. **"21st Century Campaigns"**

The most innovative campaigners, including social media and data management experts, discuss how new techniques are reshaping how political campaigns are run.

Panelists: Gigi Sohn, president and co-founder of Public Knowledge; Mindy Finn, head of strategic partnerships, Twitter, 2008 Romney campaign and Republican digital strategist; Andy Bleeker, global digital practice director, Hill & Knowlton, 2008 Obama for America and former DNC digital strategist

Moderator: Riz Khan

3 - 3:15 p.m. **"Democracy Spotlight" Series**

A program organized with Google Inc.

Dynamic global thought leaders discuss and demonstrate how information technology is being used to enhance citizen participation, improve government accountability and strengthen government transparency.

Speaker: David Drummond, senior vice president, corporate development and chief legal officer, Google

Location: Belk Theatre

3:15 - 4:45 p.m.

"Investing in 21st Century Cities"

A program organized with the Charlotte in 2012 Host Committee, Center for American Progress Action Fund and the U.S. Conference of Mayors

By the year 2050, two-thirds of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas. This panel of innovative urban leaders will share their strategies and personal experiences in building vibrant, thriving 21st century cities.

Panelists: Anthony Foxx, mayor of Charlotte; Michael Nutter, mayor of Philadelphia; Matteo Renzi, mayor of Florence, Italy; Annise Parker, mayor of Houston

Moderators: Charles Ogletree, Harvard Law School; Neera Tanden, Center for American Progress

Thursday, September 6

10 - 11:15 a.m.

"Global Responses to Poverty and Human Development"

A program organized with the ONE Campaign

With nearly 1.5 billion people living in absolute poverty, the United Nations has declared that poverty eradication efforts remain "the most significant challenge facing humankind." Inadequate access to education, basic health services and means to sustainable livelihoods impedes development and leads to low living standards. This panel of "influence shapers" will share innovative ways that governments, corporations and average citizens can make a difference in ending poverty, inequality and barriers to opportunity for the world's poor.

Panelists: Morgan Tsvangirai, prime minister of Zimbabwe; Tom Daschle, former U.S. Senate majority leader, co-chair, ONE Vote 2012 and vice chair, NDI; David Miliband, former British foreign secretary, member of parliament; Rajiv Shah, administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

Moderator: Michael Elliott, CEO and president, ONE Campaign

11:30 - 11:45 a.m.

"Democracy Spotlight" Series

A program organized with Google Inc.

Dynamic global thought leaders discuss and demonstrate how information technology is being used to enhance citizen participation, improve government accountability and strengthen government transparency.

Speakers: Tim O'Reilly, founder, O'Reilly Media; David Eaves, public policy entrepreneur

11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. **"America's Role in the World"**

A program organized with the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition

Experts discuss global challenges facing a next administration and their vision for America's role in the world, including opportunities on development, democracy and the economy.

Panelists: Madeleine K. Albright, former secretary of state and chairman, NDI; Michèle Flournoy, former U.S. undersecretary of defense for policy