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September 16, 2011

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To Political Party Leaders of Zambia:

Dear friends, on behalf of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), we would like to wish you and the people of Zambia a successful election on September 20, 2011.

As we stated during our pre-election assessment mission last month, we believe Zambia is in a position to move forward significantly if the elections are credible and peaceful, although the electoral environment presents noteworthy challenges that require tolerance, the rule of law, leadership and participation.

Zambia's history of relatively peaceful elections provides a valuable foundation for the 2011 elections. Your leadership over the next few days and weeks will be critical if Zambia is to realize its potential.

We hope that you will call on all citizens, including your supporters, to respect the people's vote and move together for a peaceful and prosperous future.

Respectfully yours,

Thomas A. Daschle
 NDI Vice Chairman

Quett Ketumile Masire
 Former President of Botswana

cc: Honorable Justice Mambilima, Chair Election Commission of Zambia