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**NDI-IFES ELECTION EXPERTS RECOMMEND BROAD REVIEW OF
ELECTORAL PROCESS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

Joint mission concludes that meaningful stakeholder participation and access to all relevant electoral materials are needed for a comprehensive review

WASHINGTON, DC – A team of international election experts has recommended a broad review of the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with the meaningful participation of all electoral stakeholders and access to all relevant electoral materials. The team, from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), was in the DRC from Jan. 5 to 13 assessing the feasibility of conducting a review of the results of the Nov. 28 legislative elections.

The experts consulted with electoral authorities, major political parties, Congolese and international election observers and others to ascertain the feasibility of a complete review of the process by a subsequent mission. The team found, however, that it would not be feasible to conduct such a broad review at this time.

NDI and IFES shared these conclusions with the DRC's National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) on Jan.12, and confirmed that both organizations stand ready to support such a review if their assistance is requested.

IFES and NDI remain committed to assisting efforts to advancing credible, democratic elections in the DRC. The organizations would like to thank all stakeholders consulted during the mission, for the time they spent with the group in the midst of the ongoing electoral cycle.

The mission was funded through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) is an independent, nonprofit leader in election assistance and democracy promotion. Since its founding in 1987, IFES has worked in 135 countries, from developing to mature democracies. For more information, visit www.IFES.org.

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 www.ndi.org.