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**NDI AND ISFED LAUNCH PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS PROCESS TO DISCUSS PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF GEORGIA**

***TBILISI –November 28, 2011, 16:00 o'clock, First Republic Hall, Parliament of Georgia -***

The National Democratic Institute's (NDI) NGO Liaison Office in partnership with the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) will launch a series of public consultations to inform the public about the proposed amendment to the Constitution of Georgia. The first meeting with the NGO community will take place in Tbilisi, on November 28, at 16:00 o'clock at First Republic Hall in the Parliament of Georgia.

Chair of Legal Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia MP Pavle Kublashvili will inform the participants about the draft amendment as well as the political processes that led to the initiation of the amendment. Members of the Opposition parties will express their views as well. Following the presentations, representatives of the Civil Society will have an opportunity to voice their opinion and ask questions.

According to the proposed amendment, the number of the members of Parliament is increasing from the current 150 to 190 following the 2012 Parliamentary Elections.

Following the launch of the public consultations process in the Parliament of Georgia, ISFED will organize public meetings in the regions of Georgia. The meetings will take place in Gurjaani (December 2), Telavi (December 2), Dusheti (December 5), Akhaltsikhe (December 7), Rustavi (December 8) and Gori (December 8). Four meetings - in Kutaisi (November 29), Batumi (November 30), Ozurgeti (November 30) and Zugdidi (December 1) - will be facilitated in partnership with NDI. During the meetings the initiators of the draft amendment as well as opposition MPs will discuss the proposed change with the general public and state their positions on the draft.

The public consultation process is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) together with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Georgia.

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*NDI is a non-profit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness, and accountability in government. More information about its programs may be found at [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org).*

*ISFED is a non-profit, non-governmental and non-partisan organization supporting democratic processes and establishment of justice in the Georgia. ISFED supports the development of democratic institutions in Georgia through promoting active citizenship and involving citizens in decision and policy making processes.*