



1101 15<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Floor 3 | Washington, DC 20009 | 202.350-6700 tel | 202.452-0804 fax | [www.ifes.org](http://www.ifes.org)

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Laura Ingalls in Washington, 202-350-6729, [lingalls@ifes.org](mailto:lingalls@ifes.org)

## **IFES TAPS INTERNATIONAL ELECTORAL TALENT**

**Washington, DC – FEBRUARY 8, 2008** – Some of the biggest names in the international democracy development field are joining IFES as members of its new Executive Advisory Council. IFES President and Chief Executive Officer Jean-Pierre Kingsley formally introduced the members on behalf of IFES' board of directors at the council's inaugural meeting in Washington February 4.

“The Executive Advisory Council brings together the widest breadth of know-how and experience,” said Mr. Kingsley. “IFES is privileged to be able to draw upon their wealth of expertise in the field of electoral democracy.”

The council will be chaired by **Carina Perelli**, former director of the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division. Other members include:

**Jean-Claude Colliard**, official delegate of France for Venice Commission/Council of Europe and former member of the Constitutional Council of France;

**Denis Kadima**, executive director of the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa;

**Rafael Lopez-Pintor**, electoral specialist and IFES' chief of party in Nicaragua;

**Nguyen Huu Dong**, electoral specialist with the United Nations Development Programme;

**Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann**, former high representative for the elections in Ivory Coast and former director of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;

**Carlos Valenzuela**, United Nations electoral specialist;

**Sam Younger**, chairman of the United Kingdom Electoral Commission.

IFES' Executive Advisory Council will meet several times a year to advise IFES' president, identify new trends in the democracy field, provide feedback about projects and performance and operate as a sounding board for major initiatives.

# # #

*IFES is an international, nonprofit organization that supports the building of democratic societies.*