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ELECTION DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Washington, DC – October 28, 2008 – The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the world's premiere election-assistance organization, announces a major three-day international conference in Washington, DC, from November 3, 2008, to November 5, 2008, at the Capitol Hilton Hotel; coinciding with the U.S. Presidential Elections.

The conference will be attended by government ministers and chief election officials from more than 40 countries and internationally eminent election experts and academics, including retired South African **Judge Johann Kriegler**, who recently concluded an international review of the 2007 Kenya elections. Other participants include government ministers from Lebanon, election officials and advisers from the Palestinian Authority, government officials from Afghanistan and lawmakers from Mexico.

This year's Election Night evening program, the fifth U.S. Presidential Election program held by IFES, comes with a high-profile reception hosted with the Newseum, with keynote **Kojo Nnamdi** of National Public Radio. The reception is catered by Wolfgang Puck and music will be provided by a jazz ensemble.

Invited guests include representatives of the U.S. democracy and governance community, foreign dignitaries, U.S. Government officials and Congressional staffers. Throughout the night, guests will be able to follow the U.S. elections covered by major news networks.

Preceding the reception, the conference will have presentations on U.S. elections from leading academics, political strategists and election advisers, followed by a half-day tour of polling sites in Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia.

The conference also includes an exclusive morning briefing on November 4 for Ambassadors on the 2008 U.S. elections. This briefing hosted jointly by IFES and the Meridian International Center will be lead by **Andrew S. Natsios**, former Administrator of USAID and now Distinguished Professor at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

The conference is filled with plenary sessions and discussion forums on the 2008 White House race; spotlighting campaign finance, political campaigning, electoral operations and voter registration.

Speakers include: **Rosemary Rodriguez**, Chair of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, **Ellen Weintraub**, Commissioner with the Federal Election Commission, **Doug Chapin**, Director at the Pew Charitable Trusts, and **Curtis B. Gans**, Director of the Center for the Study of the American Electorate at American University.

A detailed conference program can be found [here](#). Press are welcome at all events with prior notification.

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IFES is an international, nonprofit organization supports to building the foundation of democracy.