



USAID | MACEDONIA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE



“What Mark Will We Leave?”

30 Political Parties Left Their Mark for Free and Fair Elections 2011

(Skopje, May 12, 2011) Thirty party leaders signed the Code of Conduct for Free and Fair Elections at a ceremony held at the MP club in Skopje, with political leaders, state officials, Ambassadors, NGO representatives and media gathered to support the Code's principles. The signing ceremony marked the beginning of the Code of Conduct for Free and Fair Elections Campaign, encouraging all elections stakeholders to focus on fair elections. As a reminder that everyone's behavior in the election process leaves an inerasable mark on the future and on the history of the country, the 2011 Code of Conduct Campaign poses the question: What Mark Will We Leave?

“USAID actively supports this campaign for fair and democratic parliamentary elections in the Republic of Macedonia, which calls on all citizens to respect the universal principal of one person – one vote,” explained Robert Wuertz, Mission Director, USAID/Macedonia, “Political party leaders today acknowledged that intimidation, bribery, and irregular voting practices have no place in a twenty-first century Macedonia.”

As part of the nation-wide Code of Conduct Campaign, funded by USAID and implemented by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and their partners: IPD, the Macedonian Women's Lobby, Metamorphosis and C.A. MOST, the staff of NDI will promote the importance of free and fair elections to both voters and local party activists. The Campaign will target younger citizens through extensive use of social media. In addition, on May 13, 2011, two Campaign Caravans will depart from Macedonia Square in Skopje at 11.30am on a journey throughout Macedonia to spread the message. Partners in this effort include.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The National Democratic Institute is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. They have implemented five similar campaigns in Macedonia since 2002. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been funding NDI's programs in the country since 1993 and is fully funding this year's Code of Conduct Campaign. The American people, through USAID, have invested over \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.