The Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for
International Election Observers were developed through a multi-year process involving more than
20 intergovernmental and international nongovernmental organizations concerned with election
observation around the world.

The process began informally in 2001 at the initiative of the National Democratic Institute for
International Affairs (NDI) and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD) and
included an initial meeting at the UN in New York and a meeting in Washington co-hosted by the
OAS and NDI.

Building on that foundation, the UNEAD, The Carter Center, and NDI formed a joint secretariat
and launched the formal phase of the process in October 2003 at a meeting held at The Carter
Center in Atlanta. This was followed by a September 2004 meeting in Brussels, which was hosted
by the European Commission. An ongoing consultative process transpired among the participating
organizations, which resulted in a consensus document that was offered for organizational
endorsements beginning in July 2005.

The secretariat was comprised of Carina Perelli and Sean Dunne for UNEAD, David Carroll, David
Pottie and Avery Davis-Roberts for The Carter Center, and Patrick Merloe and Linda Patterson
for NDI. The secretariat members prepared the documents, with Mr. Merloe serving as the lead
drafter, drawing on a substantial body of existing documentation from organizations involved in
election observation. During the process, the secretariat received critical input and comments
from many of the participating organizations.

The process was supported by financial assistance from the United Nations, the United States
Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Commission, the Republic of
Germany and the Starr Foundation, as well as a number of individual contributors.