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Former U.S. Archivist Returns to the Premier Election Assistance NGO as Senior Strategist

At the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Dr. Allen Weinstein will develop a program to reach out to new democracies

WASHINGTON—The Honorable Allen Weinstein, former Archivist of the United States and a pioneer in the democracy promotion movement, has returned to the International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) as Senior Strategist. Weinstein, a visiting professor at the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland, will help boost IFES' efforts in working with countries embarking on the democratic path.

"It is an extraordinary joy on my part to have returned from my years as Archivist of the United States to my major professional interests: teaching history (at the University of Maryland), pursuing civil society and democratic development (at IFES), and, in addition to my affiliations with both of these world class global institutions, serving on the Board of Directors for the country's leading historical magazine, American Heritage," says Weinstein.

Weinstein has made impressive contributions to the advancement of democracy throughout the world. In 1985, when the American democracy promotion movement was in its nascent stage, he founded The Center for Democracy, a non-profit created to promote and strengthen democratic processes. He was its president and CEO until 2003. In this capacity, Weinstein chaired a number of high-profile election observation delegations in El Salvador (1991), Nicaragua (1989-90, 1996), Panama (1988-89), the Philippines (1985-6), and Russia (1991, 1996, 2000), among others. He headed the Center until 2003 when it merged with IFES. Weinstein remained a part of the organization as Senior Advisor until his appointment as Archivist in 2005.

Throughout his career, Weinstein has met with many high-level officials in countries around the world, including Russia and China. In his more than 60 trips abroad, he has been successful at opening the dialogue on civil society and democracy with the officials and NGOs he has met. He intends to begin travelling globally again to visit friends and colleagues and help them successfully implement civil society and democratic reforms they are entertaining.

"It is an honor to work with Allen again. He is a visionary and his immense experience and talent are a boon to IFES. Together with our extraordinary staff, he will continue to do wonders for democracy around the world," says Bill Sweeney, IFES president and CEO.

To learn more about Weinstein and his many accomplishments, please see his biography at: <http://www.ifes.org/staffBio.html?staffid=weinstein>.

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