March 1, 2007

Dear Participants:

On behalf of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), I am pleased to extend my greetings to those taking part in the Women of the Mountains Conference.

The contributions of women are crucial to building a strong and vibrant society, but women around the world often face daunting challenges. As an organization working to strengthen democracy worldwide, NDI is committed to promoting the equitable participation of women in decisions that affect their lives.

I am truly pleased that Utah Valley State College and the Kyrgyz National Centre for Development of Mountain Regions have organized this important conference, which provides an opportunity to stimulate dialogue and share knowledge on the critical issues facing women in mountainous nations. Your participation in this conference will help mobilize support for women around the world to assume leadership roles and increase their contribution to their countries’ development.

I wish you all the best as you seek to build on the results of this conference.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ambassador Nelson C. Ledsky
Regional Director, Eurasia