



Fact Sheet 4 – The Media

“Among a people generally corrupt, liberty cannot long exist”

Edmund Burke

The undisputed power of the media to reach the widest audiences has proven an invaluable ally in the fight against corruption, contributing towards bringing culprits to justice and justice to victims. The need to empower journalists from the developing world and remove the obstacles they face when covering cases of corruption is self-evident. Our goal is to harness the skills and experience of their peers and to impart it to others. This will be accomplished by *Peer-to-Peer Media Forum: Covering Corruption with Integrity*. Supported by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID), the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Press Institute (IPI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and coinciding with a global conference against corruption, this event will be held in Bali, Indonesia on 31 January 2008.

The approach is two pronged. During the five-day Bali Conference (28 January to 1 February 2008), the world’s politicians and practitioners will take stock of progress made in implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption and formulate global anti-corruption policies. Parallel to the conference, renowned journalists who have devoted their careers to reporting on corruption will address their peers and facilitate discussion on investigative journalism, role of the media in the anti-corruption debate, good practices on integrity standards within the media and the difficulties they face when covering corruption. While the political dimension of the anti-corruption agenda remains essential, the business community, the media and non-governmental organizations share the moral responsibility to voice their concerns and have the power to be heard. To this end, and unprecedented, the Peer-to-Peer Forum and other special events will be staged at the same time as an intergovernmental anti-corruption conference.

The underlying objective of this initiative, part of a larger strategy involving not only the media but also the business community, literature, the film industry and non-governmental organizations, is to help close the divide between the developed and the developing world. Declining the traditional approach, our objective is to provide an international stage for media from developed and developing countries to unite and lend each other support on an issue of global concern. Even more far-reaching, and unifying the whole strategy, is our goal to turn communities from victims of corruption into actors for real and lasting change.

Corruption is a cancer in every society and cannot be eradicated unless a concerted campaign is waged by all people in every society. While national governments and international organizations, including the United Nations, have an institutional responsibility to address the problem, the contribution of civil society remains essential to mobilize public opinion and to urge political leaders to do more.