



*Fact Sheet 2 – Artists for Integrity*

*“The accomplice to the crime of corruption is frequently our own indifference”*

*Bess Myerson*

The indisputable power of literature and the film industry to capture large audiences has proven an invaluable ally in the fight against corruption. Unlocking the door to people’s minds and souls by vividly portraying the most aberrant manifestations of corruption, literature has an immense contribution to make to an all-out campaign. Similarly, by focusing not only on fictitious stories but also on real corruption cases, the film industry has contributed to raising public awareness, turning a taboo into a discussion topic and resulting in blockbusters, award winning documentaries and best sellers. Also many anti-corruption songs have become runaway hits, carrying the message across every segment of society.

In a bid to increase public awareness of the threats posed by the scourge of corruption, the United Nations *Office on Drugs and Crime* will purposely stage a series of special events and offer them a platform in coincidence with an institutional anti-corruption conference, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 28 January to 1 February 2008. 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 contribute to the common goal.

The approach is novel and multi faceted. On one hand, the five-day Bali Conference will allow politicians and practitioners to review and formulate global anti-corruption policies. On the other hand, and running parallel to the Conference, renowned figures from the world of literature and the film industry will be given the unique and mutually beneficial chance to connect with grass roots non-governmental organizations, whose work and commendable efforts to curb corruption often remain obscured. Writers and film producers provide a medium for civil society to be heard and seen, whilst at the same time demonstrating their social concern. The vision is to provide a vibrant interactive forum for exchange of ideas and create opportunities for future collaboration.

The underlying objective of this initiative, part of a larger strategy involving not only literature, the film industry and non-governmental organizations but also the business community and the media, is to close the gap between the heard and the unheard voices of the world. 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.