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## **“UZBEKISTAN’S ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY IN THE MODERN ERA”**

Zikirov Khurshid Hasan ugli

5th-year student, Faculty of Master’s and Part-time Education,  
Tashkent State University of Law and Anti-Corruption Compliance Special  
Department Chief Specialist - Joint-Stock Commercial Bank Turonbank  
[zikirovxurshid@gmail.com](mailto:zikirovxurshid@gmail.com)

### **Abstract:**

This article examines the reforms being implemented in our country to prevent and combat corruption, the distinctive features of anti-corruption policy, the study of foreign systems in this field and the introduction of their positive aspects into practice. It also highlights the necessary measures to address existing problems and shortcomings, as well as theoretical and practical conclusions on improving the current legislation.

**Keywords:** Corruption, democracy, official, transparency and openness, accountability, international experience, integrity vaccine.

Corruption is destructive because it negatively affects a country's economic development, the establishment of the rule of law, and citizens trust in social justice. Therefore, corruption is recognized as one of the most urgent global problems, as this scourge seriously undermines the development of any state and society. For this reason, combating corruption is considered one of the priority directions of state policy in our country. It is no secret that decisive measures are being taken in Uzbekistan to prevent and combat corruption in various areas of state and social governance. Just as in the rest of the world, combating corruption has become a pressing issue in our Republic. Efforts are focused on building an effective system of anti-corruption measures, eliminating its roots in all spheres, promoting transparency and openness in public administration, widely introducing digital technologies, and reducing the human factor in the sphere of public services.

According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Combating Corruption” No. 419 dated January 3, 2017, corruption is defined as the unlawful use of one's



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official or service position for the purpose of obtaining material or non-material benefits for oneself or others, as well as the unlawful provision of such benefits.<sup>1</sup> In the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, corruption is defined as “to spoil, to mislead, to bribe.” It is understood as officials using the powers and authority entrusted to them for personal enrichment, which includes bribery, abuse of office, and other illegal actions.<sup>2</sup>

In combating corruption, it is first necessary to improve legislation and law enforcement practices, as well as to expand the transparency of the activities of state bodies and civil servants. At the same time, it requires the wider promotion of education, awareness, and measures to strengthen a culture of respect for human rights in ensuring the fight against corruption and the protection of human rights. Since combating corruption is one of the priority tasks of state policy and the activities of state bodies, it is important to pay special attention to several key areas of prevention. In particular, preventive measures against corruption — based on the principles of “education, awareness, and advocacy” — are being actively promoted, while in practice, intensive work is being carried out in all areas on the basis of efficiency, transparency, openness, and accountability.<sup>3</sup>

Along with these wide-ranging reforms, all state bodies and organizations are working to cultivate an uncompromising attitude toward corruption in their activities, prevent conflicts of interest, identify and eliminate such situations in a timely manner, as well as address their causes and conditions. To this end, the independence and effectiveness of internal anti-corruption control structures are being further strengthened. In particular, a modern anti-corruption compliance control management system that meets international standards has been introduced into practice, and the specific tasks to be carried out in this regard have been clearly defined.

Effective anti-corruption efforts are not merely a punitive mechanism, but rather the practical implementation of the principles of transparency and accountability. Based

<sup>1</sup> <https://lex.uz/docs/-3088008> Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on January 3, 2017, No. LRU-419 - “On Combating corruption”.

<sup>2</sup> <https://uz.wiktionary.org/wiki/korrupsiya>

<sup>3</sup> Qobilov, Sh. Research Tools for Studying the Problem of Corruption. // Educational-Methodical Manual. – Tashkent: Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2020. – p. 30.



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on the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-154 of June 14, 2022, “On Measures to Introduce a System for Increasing and Assessing the Level of Transparency of State Bodies and Organizations,” all state authorities and administrative bodies, as well as institutions and organizations with 50 percent or more state ownership in their charter capital, are required to publish socially significant information as open data.<sup>4</sup>

It should be especially noted that a number of leading experts who have studied this phenomenon point out the following factors as causes of corruption. These include laws with dual meanings, which create the possibility for officials applying the law to interpret and apply it differently. In addition, some specialists argue that “fork” sanctions in criminal and administrative legislation may also create favorable conditions for corruption. In other words, the absence of a fixed sanction amount allows judges to apply penalties at their own discretion. International experience shows that one of the most effective mechanisms for preventing such situations is the digitalization of the activities of state bodies and organizations. In particular, blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies help reduce or eliminate the negative influence of the human factor, which is one of the main sources of corruption risks in the performance of assigned duties and functions.

As our President has emphasized, if we all act as a united force, we will undoubtedly achieve great positive results. Therefore, community activists, elders, intellectuals, writers and poets, cultural and art workers, entrepreneurs, public figures, leaders, deputies, and senators — in short, the entire society — must unite and view corruption as a “cancer in the body of society.” It is not without reason that our Head of State repeatedly stresses the dangers of this scourge, reminding us that corruption, which undermines the state system from within and destroys social stability, as well as all forms of bureaucracy, disrespect for people, regionalism, and factionalism, must be resolutely fought against by all of us.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://lex.uz/docs/-6066512> Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on June 14, 2022, No. DP-154 - “On measures to implement a system for improving and evaluating the level of openness of the activities of government agencies and organizations”

<sup>5</sup> <https://gov.uz/oz/news/view/39111>



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François Valérian, Chair of Transparency International, stated: “Corruption is an emerging global threat that not only undermines development but also leads to even more harmful consequences — it is a primary cause of democratic decline, instability, and human rights violations. The international community and each individual state must make the fight against corruption the most important and long-term priority. This is crucial for resisting authoritarianism and ensuring a peaceful, free, and stable world. The dangerous trends identified in this year’s Corruption Perceptions Index highlight the urgent need to take concrete measures now to combat global corruption”.<sup>6</sup>

According to the 2024 data provided by Transparency International, countries such as Denmark, Finland, Singapore, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Norway, and Switzerland are ranked among those with the lowest levels of corruption. It is necessary to analyze how these states achieved such results and what methods they used in combating corruption. By adopting the positive experiences of these countries and continuing systematic work in the fight against corruption, Uzbekistan will undoubtedly be able to improve its position in international rankings. Most importantly, this will lay the groundwork for the approval of Uzbekistan’s candidacy to host the UNCAC Conference in 2027. Equally vital is the enhancement of legal awareness among the population, especially the youth, and the development of a sense of shared responsibility in combating corruption. In this regard, propaganda and awareness-raising activities should be actively pursued under the slogan “Corruption — the enemy of social progress.” Through the “integrity vaccine,” all state bodies, political parties, public organizations, the media, and each of us must fight against this scourge. Indeed, a public servant whose heart, conscience, and hands are clean, whose mind and character are open and honest, will surely earn the trust, respect, and affection of the people. Therefore, for the sake of the present and future of our beautiful and unique country, and for its bright prospects, we must never forget that the responsibility rests, first and foremost, with us.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024>



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5. <https://gov.uz/oz/news/view/39111> On March 5 President of the Republic of Uzbekistan attended a meeting of the National council on combating corruption.
6. <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024>.