



## ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY AND GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the state policy in the fight against corruption in our country and the process of its implementation. It also provides information about global best practices, successful cases implemented in other countries, and their outcomes. The main focus is on the differences and similarities between national and international experiences in introducing effective mechanisms to combat corruption. This article can be useful for researchers, political scientists, and specialists working in the field of anti-corruption efforts.

**Keywords:** corruption, anti-corruption fight, state program, regulatory framework, corruption-free sector, zero tolerance, transparency, bribery, political will, and others.

"It would be a lie to say there is no corruption; it exists within us. We must fight against corruption with the support of the entire public."  
— Sh.M. Mirziyoyev

**Corruption** is the unlawful use of public authority, official position, or opportunities by individuals or organizations to gain personal benefit. Typically, corruption manifests in forms such as bribery, abuse of authority, and the illegal use of financial and economic resources for personal gain.

Corruption adversely affects not only economic growth but also social justice, as it erodes public trust in state institutions and disrupts a fair competitive environment. Combating corruption, enhancing transparency, and ensuring the rule of law are essential aspects of state policy.

The Quran directly prohibits bribery: "Do not consume one another's property unjustly or send it [in bribery] to the authorities in order that you may wrongfully consume a portion of the wealth of the people while you know [it is unlawful]" (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:188).

In his work "The Virtuous City", Abu Nasr al-Farabi emphasized that corruption is one of the barriers to building a civil society. Corruption poses a serious threat to market economies and acts as a strong impediment to bilateral and multilateral cooperation between countries as well as to the growth of business and investment. Each year, dozens of joint ventures either start or cease operations due to these "invisible hands." The decline in foreign investment in countries with high levels of corruption further demonstrates the danger of this harmful vice<sup>2</sup>.

### **\*\*State Programs Implemented Within the Framework of State Policy\*\***

Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption," adopted on January 3, 2017, outlines the main directions of state policy in the field of combating corruption, including the

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gazeta.uz/oz/2021/09/28/corruption/>

<sup>2</sup> B.I. Ismailov, I.I. Nasriev. Issues of improving the effectiveness of departmental measures to combat corruption // Educational-methodical guide. – T.: Academy of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Higher School of Judges of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2020. – 272 p.

following:

- Raising public legal awareness and legal culture, and fostering a zero-tolerance attitude toward corruption in society;
- Implementing measures to prevent corruption across all areas of state and social life;
- Timely identification and suppression of corruption-related offenses, eliminating their consequences and the conditions that enable them, and ensuring the principle of inevitability of accountability for corruption-related offenses.

According to Article 81 of the Law “On Combating Corruption,” the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan is tasked with developing and implementing state policy to prevent and combat corruption.

The Anti-Corruption Agency performs the following functions to implement state policy in the field of combating corruption:

- Develops and ensures the implementation of anti-corruption strategies and state programs;
- Drafts normative legal acts aimed at strengthening the legal foundations for combating corruption;
- Conducts systematic analysis of the corruption situation in the country, identifies high-risk areas for corruption, and examines the causes and conditions that facilitate corruption-related offenses;
- Ensures compliance with the requirements of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, fosters international cooperation in this direction, and implements systematic measures to strengthen the country's image and improve its position in international rankings;
- Prepares an annual national report on combating corruption in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Supports the activities of civil society institutions, the media, and other non-state sector representatives in establishing public oversight against corruption<sup>3</sup>.

#### **\*\*Implementation of State Programs for Combating Corruption in Our Country\*\***

State policy against corruption in our country is being implemented through the adoption of national programs specifically aimed at combating corruption. Based on the Law “On Combating Corruption,” four state programs were adopted for 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2023, each covering a two-year period. The State Program for Combating Corruption for 2021-2022 defined 44 tasks across 5 directions, with all necessary measures taken to ensure their timely execution. The State Program for 2023-2024 includes 30 tasks across 9 directions, of which 10 tasks slated for 2023 have been successfully completed.

The following initiatives were undertaken within the framework of the State Program:

1. The Agency for Development of Public Service, in collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Technologies, launched the platform [www.hrm.argos.uz](http://www.hrm.argos.uz). This platform is an electronic system for managing personnel within state agencies, containing and processing data on civil servants. Currently, 2,672 organizations are connected to the platform, forming a personal data database for over 91,000 civil servants.

2. To ensure the uniform application of administrative procedures within state bodies and organizations, the Ministry of Justice developed and distributed a methodological guide on implementing the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Administrative Procedures.”

3. The public now has access to information on overturned illegal decisions made by officials in state bodies and organizations. Specifically, the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan’s portal, <https://public.sud.uz/report#!/sign/view>, now regularly publishes court rulings on the annulment of such illegal decisions.

4. The “Corruption-Free Sector” initiative was launched within the pre-school and school education sector. The Ministry of Preschool and School Education approved an associated “Roadmap” to guide its implementation.

5. The procedure for conducting anti-corruption reviews of regulatory documents and their drafts has been further improved, and existing regulatory documents are being systematically reviewed. By the end of 2022, a total of 1,860 legislative acts were subjected to anti-corruption examination. Corruptive factors were

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<sup>3</sup> Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Combating Corruption.” // Collection of legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2017, Issue 1.

identified in 243 documents, totaling more than 350 corruption-prone provisions. Of these, 82 documents were recommended for cancellation through the “regulatory guillotine” process due to their obsolescence.

6. A rating system for evaluating the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures within state bodies and organizations was introduced. Initially applied experimentally to 24 state organizations, the results categorized 3 organizations as “good” (81-100 points), 10 as “satisfactory” (55-80 points), and 11 as “unsatisfactory” (below 55 points). Organizations with unsatisfactory ratings included the Ministries of Construction, Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Public Education, and Health, as well as the Cadastral Agency under the State Tax Committee, and the administrations of Buka and Mirzo Ulugbek districts<sup>4</sup>.

It is important to emphasize that the regulatory guillotine mentioned above is a concept that is of interest to all of us. The “regulatory guillotine” involves reviewing and analyzing existing regulatory documents to filter, confirm, amend, or repeal them. In essence, this approach is based on simplifying to the maximum extent any regulatory document that is either economically unjustified from a development strategy perspective or inconvenient for society and business, even if it is legally valid and necessary. The main principles of the regulatory guillotine are to ensure that regulations are strategically relevant, essential, and user-friendly.

#### **\*\*International Experience in Combating Corruption\*\***

Utilizing the experience of developed countries is crucial in effectively combating corruption. For example, in the United States, journalists and reporters play an essential role in establishing effective public oversight in the fight against corruption. In contrast, investigative journalism in CIS countries, including Uzbekistan, remains underdeveloped and does not yet align with modern requirements.

When discussing countries that have achieved success in combating corruption, Singapore often comes to mind. However, if we look at the Corruption Perceptions Index by “Transparency International”, countries like Denmark and Norway consistently rank among the least corrupt nations. From this perspective, it would be appropriate to first focus on Denmark.

**Denmark** has maintained top positions in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) published by “Transparency International” in recent years. Specifically, in the 2021 CPI, Denmark scored 88 out of 100, ranking first among 180 countries. In the “Rule of Law Index 2020”, it achieved a score of 0.90 out of 1, ranking first among 128 countries. It also scored 64 out of 150 in the “Global Right to Information Rating”, placing 108th out of 134 countries, and ranked second out of 116 countries in the 2019 “Index of Public Integrity” with a score of 9.49 out of 105.

One of the primary reasons for Denmark's low corruption rate is the emphasis placed not only on educating government officials but also on informing ordinary citizens about the harms of corruption. The country maintains strong ethical standards, codes of conduct for officials, and a culture of transparency and openness at the governmental level. In Denmark, those suspected of corruption quickly part ways with their positions. Additionally, the social security of government employees is ensured at a high level—free healthcare and education, as well as social guarantees, significantly reduce the likelihood of corrupt behavior.

Another factor contributing to Denmark's low corruption rate is the “zero-tolerance” policy against corruption observed by most companies. Danish companies strictly reject bribery both internally and in their dealings with partners. For instance, when applying for a job, parties are required to sign a contract that includes a commitment to refuse giving or accepting bribes. Refusing to sign this contract is a serious reason for job rejection, and breaching the contract's terms can lead to dismissal. Similar policies are present in many major Danish organizations, including the Danish Chamber of Commerce, the Industrialization Fund for Developing Countries, the Confederation of Danish Industry, and the Danish Export Credit Agency (EKF)<sup>6</sup>.

**Norway** ranked first among 116 countries in the \*Index of Public Integrity 2019\*, achieving a score

<sup>4</sup> <https://anticorruption.uz/storage>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://anticor.hse.ru/main/country> /Denmark © Антикоруptionный центр НИУ ВШЭ

<sup>6</sup> 1. Fighting Corruption. Textbook. // Responsible editor: A.Sh. Bekmurodov: – Tashkent: "Akademiya", 2022. – 344 p.

of 9.61 out of 107. Experts believe that the key to Norway's success in combating corruption lies in transparency. Like many other European and global countries, in Norway, all documents related to government procurement and public budget expenditures are open to the public. They are published online and in print media, allowing every citizen to access information on how and how much money is being spent. Transparency in Norway is not limited to government spending, but also extends to the incomes of high-ranking officials and ordinary workers. Information about the salaries and bank accounts of all citizens is available on the local tax service's website.

Now, let's focus on **Georgia**. In January 2012, the World Bank called Georgia the "unique success" in the fight against corruption. According to Filipp Le Uerun, "The Georgian experience shows that it is possible to break the brutal cycle of endemic corruption and transform it into a virtuous cycle through the right and firm reforms"<sup>8</sup>. According to **"Foreign Policy"**, Georgia is "the only post-Soviet country to have succeeded in the fight against corruption in the last decade." In Georgia's experience, it is evident that officials' salaries have been increased to 2-3 times higher than those in business, which has contributed to the country's success in combating corruption.

**\*\*What should be the starting point in the fight against corruption?\***

As the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle said, a person who gains power through money is likely to seek profit from it. Therefore, in the fight against corruption in our country, it is crucial to improve the transparency and openness of the recruitment system, ensuring that the most suitable candidates are selected for positions, regardless of material or immaterial incentives.

First and foremost, the fight against corruption should begin at home. I believe that women play a significant role in this. If mothers scrutinize and understand the roots of crimes like theft or bribery and openly discuss these issues, their husbands will be more inclined to seek honest earnings, resulting in prosperity, peace, and calm within the family.

Corruption is the highest form of greed. Fighting it requires political will from officials. The way to overcome this challenge is to reduce the size of the bureaucratic apparatus as much as possible, minimize state interference in citizens' private lives and economic activities, and eliminate monopolies. Of course, measures to combat this ill are being implemented in our country. Research shows that the most effective way to combat an evil is to address its causes, not just the evil itself.

In conclusion, the fight against corruption is one of the priority directions of state policy in our country, and much emphasis is placed on using international experiences and best practices to enhance its effectiveness. Global experiences show that improving legislation, ensuring transparency in government bodies, strengthening cooperation with civil society, and implementing digital technologies play a crucial role in reducing corruption. Based on this, systematic reforms are being implemented in our country, with increased efforts to enhance transparency in government operations and boost citizens' trust in the state. These consistent efforts in this area serve as a key factor in building a prosperous and just society.

It is important to note that the severity of punishments for corruption-related crimes does not always reduce the level of corruption in a country. For example, in China, corruption-related crimes are punishable by the death penalty. However, according to Transparency International, China still ranks among countries with moderate corruption levels.

From the above, it can be concluded that the fight against corruption should begin with each individual. First, a person must understand the negative consequences of corruption. In this regard, I believe that mothers play a crucial role. They must teach their children from an early age that corruption is a harmful vice that leads to disastrous consequences, not only for individuals but also for society as a whole.

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