



LEGISLATIVE FOUNDATIONS OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN NEW UZBEKISTAN

Yuldashov Farxod Soliyevich

Independent researcher of the Law Enforcement
Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan
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Abstract: This article analyzes the legal and institutional foundations of combating corruption in the context of New Uzbekistan. It will highlight the significance of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption", the Law "On Conflict of Interest", the Law "On State Civil Service", as well as Presidential decrees and resolutions aimed at improving the system of preventing and combating corruption. Mechanisms for identifying and eliminating corruption risks, ensuring transparency in the activities of state bodies, preventing conflicts of interest, public oversight, internal anti-corruption control, and ensuring the inevitability of liability for corruption-related offenses will also be considered. The article substantiates that the consistent improvement of anti-corruption legislation is an important condition for strengthening legality, transparency, and accountability in public administration.

Keywords: New Uzbekistan, corruption, anti-corruption, legislation, legal frameworks, conflict of interest, corruption risks, civil service, openness, transparency, public oversight, internal anti-corruption control, accountability, legal mechanisms, corruption prevention.

In New Uzbekistan, large-scale work is being consistently carried out to prevent corruption, increase transparency, and strengthen public oversight. After all, corruption is a serious crime that undermines socio-economic development and causes serious damage to entrepreneurship, science, education, healthcare, and many other sectors in every country, region, and society; a country cannot develop successfully within a corrupt system.

In his Address to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev noted: "Corruption is the most serious threat that hinders the development of the state, undermines justice and the rule of law, and weakens the atmosphere of trust in society. Allowing corruption is a betrayal of our reforms. In 2026, we will declare a "state of emergency" to combat this disease¹, was recognized as .

The 89th goal of the "Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy - "Increasing the efficiency of the system for eliminating corruption factors and accelerating the continuation of work on forming an intolerant attitude toward corruption in society" - is of fundamental importance in the system of legal reforms being implemented in the country. This goal defines integrity, openness, and the rule of law as a strategic task in all spheres of national development.

In recent years, regulatory legal acts have been adopted to reform the life of society and the state, to prevent corruption offenses, and important organizational and legal reforms have been carried out in the field of combating corruption. Furthermore, large-scale reforms are being implemented in our country to combat corruption and to foster an intolerant attitude

¹ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президенти Шавкат Мирзиёевнинг Олий Мажлис ва Ўзбекистон халқига Мурожаатномаси (26.12.2025 й.) // <https://president.uz/uz/lists/view/8834>

toward it in society. Necessary conditions have been created for effective and efficient public control in public administration, and a system aimed at preventing corruption offenses has been formed.

The fight against corruption remains one of the primary directions of the political and legal reforms being implemented in our country.

In 2008, Uzbekistan ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted on October 31, 2003, and specific measures to combat corruption were developed and implemented by the state. In 2010, Uzbekistan joined the Istanbul Programme of Action of the Anti-Corruption Network of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In order to further develop international cooperation in the field of combating corruption, Uzbekistan has been admitted as a member of several regional and international organizations. In particular, by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 30, 2025, the Anti-Corruption Agency joined the "Agreement on the Establishment of an Interstate Anti-Corruption Council" within the CIS, signed on October 25, 2013, in Minsk, and was designated as a member of the Interstate Anti-Corruption Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Also, at the 12th Regional Conference on the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific, held in Indonesia, Uzbekistan joined the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific (ACI)².

Furthermore, ethical requirements regarding employees of state bodies and organizations in the field of anti-corruption are reflected in a number of international legal documents. Specifically:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 10, 1948);

Declaration on the Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Against Abuse of Power (29 November 1985);

International Code of Conduct for Public Officials, adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 12, 1996;

Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Officials (January 27, 1999);

UN Convention against Corruption, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 31 October 2003.

Our national legislation contains a wide range of norms regarding the ethics of civil servants, including the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2023), the Labor Code (2022), the Laws "On Crime Prevention," "On Combating Corruption" (2017), "On Anti-Corruption Expertise of Regulatory Legal Acts and Their Draft" (2023), "On Conflict of Interest" (2024), "On Administrative Procedures" (2018), "On State Civil Service" (2022), and the Model Rules of Ethics for State Civil Servants (2022).

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption" dated January 3, 2017, established the fundamental principles of anti-corruption and the main directions of state policy in this area. The law also enshrines the fundamental principles of combating corruption and important directions of state policy in this area. This Law consists of 6 chapters and 34 articles, which define the bodies and organizations engaged in and participating in anti-corruption activities, the improvement of legal awareness and legal culture in the field of anti-

² Ўзбекистон Республикаси Коррупцияга қарши курашиш агентлиги томонидан 2025 йилда амалга оширилган ишлар тўғрисида маълумот // <https://anticorruption.uz>



corruption, the identification and suppression of corruption offenses, and the inevitability of liability.

To date, amendments and additions have been made to this Law eight times. In particular, the addition of norms regarding the powers of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the National Anti-Corruption Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its regional councils based on the Law of November 18, 2021, strengthened the activities of these structures at the legislative level. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. ZRU-1155 dated June 22, 2026, introduced additions and amendments to certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at strengthening liability and punitive measures for corruption-related crimes, further increasing the efficiency of national and regional anti-corruption councils, the Anti-Corruption Agency, compliance, and internal anti-corruption control structures, establishing a clear list of corruption-related crimes, ensuring the safety of persons who report corruption, reducing corruption factors in public procurement, and defining the formation of an intolerant attitude toward corruption among youth as one of the main directions of state youth policy.

On August 8, 2022, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On State Civil Service," which defines the legal status of state civil servants and regulates their activities based on unified norms and rules, was adopted³ accepted. The law consists of 10 chapters and 64 articles, which define general provisions regulating social relations in the field of state civil service, the main tasks and powers of state bodies in regulating the state civil service, the status, rights and obligations, guarantees of legal and social protection of state civil servants, the grounds for entering, serving and terminating the state civil service, and measures to prevent corruption in the system of the state civil service.

A number of positive results have been achieved through the implementation of an effective internal anti-corruption control system ("compliance control") in state administration and economic bodies. It was noted that over the past period, the activities of compliance control structures in state bodies have been reviewed, more than 11,000 inspections have been conducted in internal control units, and the misappropriation of 793 billion soums has been prevented. Financial errors and shortcomings totaling nearly 2 trillion soums were identified, and 478 billion soums in damages were recovered.

As a result of the approval of performance indicators (KPIs) for internal anti-corruption control units and the implementation of more than 700 studies, monitoring, and control measures, financial errors and deficiencies totaling 354 billion soums were identified, and 1,397 instances of conflicts of interest and the misappropriation of approximately 550 billion soums were prevented. Twenty-six criminal cases were initiated against officials, 24 were brought to administrative and 148 to disciplinary liability.

Systematic work is being carried out in the fields of healthcare, preschool and school education, cadastral and construction systems, and the formation of an intolerant attitude toward corruption among civil servants, ensuring transparency in personnel recruitment, and conducting anti-corruption training courses. In particular, the "E-learning" electronic platform for training employees of state bodies and organizations responsible for ensuring openness was launched, and 1,320 responsible employees of 119 state bodies were trained.

³ Ўзбекистон Республикасининг 2022 йил 8 августдаги "Давлат фукаролик хизмати тўғрисида" ЎРК-788-сон Қонуни // Қонунчилик маълумотлари миллий базаси, 09.08.2022 й., 03/22/788/0723-сон

The results of the survey fully reflect the reforms carried out in the country in the field of combating corruption and the practical implementation of adopted documents. This is confirmed by the results of a sociological study titled "Citizens on Corruption in Uzbekistan," conducted by the "Ijtimoiy Fikr" Center to study public opinion and attitudes regarding the nature and causes of corruption in the country and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures. In particular, compared to the survey conducted in 2022, the percentage of representatives of the population who are intolerant of corruption and fully aware of its consequences has increased by almost 20 percent. In this year's survey, the majority of respondents—91.2% (72.1% in 2022) —exhibited a negative attitude toward citizens giving bribes to solve their problems; 6.3% (4.7%) were neutral, while only 2.3% were indifferent⁴.

In some foreign countries with advanced experience and success in the fight against corruption, the anti-corruption expertise of regulatory legal acts and their drafts is regulated by law. In particular, in the Federal Law of the Russian Federation "On Anti-Corruption Expertise of Regulatory Legal Acts and Their Draft"⁵ conducting anti-corruption expertise to identify corruption-generating factors and their subsequent elimination.

Furthermore, the 2006 Law of the Republic of Korea "On the Prevention of Corruption" empowers the Commission on Combating Corruption and Protecting the Rights of Citizens to identify corruption-prone factors in laws and their drafts⁶. At the same time, Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Slovenia "On Integrity and Prevention of Corruption" stipulates that draft normative legal acts are reviewed by the Anti-Corruption Commission to prevent corruption and eliminate conflicts of interest before being considered by parliament, and are sent to parliament based on the commission's conclusion⁷.

In the Law "On Anti-Corruption Expertise of Regulatory Legal Acts and Their Draft," adopted on August 8, 2023⁸ the Anti-Corruption Agency and the Ministry of Justice and its territorial divisions are designated as the subjects conducting anti-corruption expertise of regulatory legal acts and their drafts. Specifically, in 2025, the Agency conducted an anti-corruption expertise on 342 draft regulatory legal acts developed by ministries and departments; 499 corruption-prone factors were identified in 65 percent of these projects, or 221 of them, and relevant recommendations were sent to ministries and departments to eliminate them.

Along with the reforms carried out in the field of combating corruption in our country, problems remain in some areas today. In particular, although a number of legislative acts provide clarifications on conflicts of interest, specific mechanisms for their implementation and control in state bodies and institutions are not established.

⁴ “Фуқаролар Ўзбекистонда коррупция тўғрисида” мавзусидаги социологик тадқиқот натижалари тақдимот қилинди // <https://e-anticor.uz/uz/news/9>

⁵ Федеральный закон от 17.07.2009 г. № 172-ФЗ “Об антикоррупционной экспертизе нормативных правовых актов и проектов нормативных правовых актов” // <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/29641>

⁶ Ким Ен Ун, Трунцевский Ю.В., Молчанова М.А. Антикоррупционная политика Республики Корея: история становления и современность // Сравнительная политика. – 2018. – № 3. – С. 146-153.

⁷ Z A K O N O SPREMEMBAH IN DOPOLNITVAH ZAKONA O INTEGRITETI IN PREPREČEVANJU KORUPCIJE (ZIntPK-C) // <https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2020-01-2765/zakon-o-spremembah-in-dopolnitvah-zakona-o-integriteti-in-preprecevanju-korupcije-zintpk-c?h=>

⁸ Ўзбекистон Республикасининг 2023 йил 8 августдаги “Норматив-ҳуқуқий ҳужжатларнинг ва улар лойиҳаларининг коррупцияга қарши экспертизаси тўғрисида”ги ЎРҚ-860-сон Қонуни // Қонунчилик маълумотлари миллий базаси, 09.08.2023 й., 03/23/860/0571-сон

Law "On Conflict of Interest," adopted on June 5, 2024⁹ while eliminating the aforementioned problems, it is also significant in that it is aimed at regulating relations in the field of conflicts of interest that cause corrupt situations. This law closes gaps in anti-corruption legislation related to conflicts of interest and establishes specific mechanisms for the legislative regulation of this area. The legal consequences of a conflict of interest are established, i.e., it is established that decisions made in such cases and concluded agreements are annulled by a court verdict.

This law defines the concept of conflict of interest, the duties of civil servants, and specific mechanisms for its regulation. The Anti-Corruption Agency, ethics commissions of state organizations, human resources departments, and internal anti-corruption control structures are being strengthened as bodies regulating conflicts of interest. Specifically, in 2024 alone, the Agency submitted 57 submissions to ministries and departments regarding conflicts of interest in 111 public procurements totaling 221.3 billion soums, and 54 requests to law enforcement agencies, resulting in the cancellation of procurements totaling 33.6 billion soums in 75 cases¹⁰.

Long-term success in the fight against corruption ultimately depends not only on legal sanctions or institutional reforms but also on the development of a broad public culture of integrity based on transparency, accountability, equality, and respect for human dignity. In this regard, in order to improve anti-corruption measures, it is advisable to consider the following issues.

First, it is necessary to continue strengthening the institutional independence of the Anti-Corruption Agency, its material and technical potential, and the efficiency of its activities. It is necessary to establish the "For Contribution to the Fight Against Corruption" badge and take other organizational and legal measures. It is also recommended to adopt a national anti-corruption strategy in Uzbekistan until 2030.

Second, greater support should be provided to civil society organizations, independent media, academic institutions, and investigative journalism, which, in accordance with Article 13 of the UN Convention against Corruption, perform important functions in promoting transparency, public oversight, and civic accountability.

Thirdly, it is important to maintain a special electronic register of persons found guilty of committing corruption-prone crimes, as well as to establish the issuance of a protection order and introduce a real incentive mechanism to increase the number of those reporting corruption.

Fourth, in order to continuously increase the knowledge of the population and civil servants in the field of anti-corruption, it is necessary to improve the electronic platform "Virtual Anti-Corruption Academy." It is also advisable to establish close ties with the International Anti-Corruption Academy.

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⁹ Ўзбекистон Республикасининг 2024 йил 5 июндаги "Манфаатлар тўқнашуви тўғрисида"ги ЎРҚ-931-сон Қонуни // Қонунчилик маълумотлари миллий базаси, 05.06.2024 й., 03/24/931/0402-сон

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