



## THE IMPORTANCE OF COMBATING CORRUPTION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY: THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ANALYSIS

**Tadjibayeva Albina Yuldashbayevna**

Associate Professor, PhD, Candidate of Legal Sciences,

Department of Criminal Procedure Law,

Tashkent State University of Law, Uzbekistan,

albinatadzibaeva616@gmail.com

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20676034>

### ARTICLE INFO

Qabul qilindi: 1-iyun 2026 yil  
Ma'qullandi: 5-iyun 2026 yil  
Nashr qilindi: 13-iyun 2026 yil

#### KEY WORDS

*corruption, development of society, anti-corruption policy, rule of law, transparency, civil society.*

### ABSTRACT

*This article is devoted to researching the theoretical and practical importance of combating corruption in the development of society. Utilizing descriptive and comparative research methods, the study analyzes legislation, legal literature, and the perspectives of scholars. The primary objective of the research is to identify the social, economic, and political consequences of corruption, as well as the mechanisms to combat it. The article examines the role of anti-corruption efforts in strengthening civil society and defines effective directions for anti-corruption policy based on international experience. In conclusion, scientific-theoretical proposals and practical recommendations for improving the anti-corruption policy in Uzbekistan are presented.*

Corruption stands as one of the most dangerous social phenomena for both society and the state; it undermines the efficiency of public administration, hinders economic growth, and weakens citizen trust in public institutions. Target 74 of the "Uzbekistan – 2030" Strategy, approved by Decree No. PF-158 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 12, 2023, explicitly outlines "Strengthening the fight against corruption, ensuring transparency in public administration, and developing public oversight" [1]. This strategic target clearly demonstrates that the fight against corruption has become a top priority of state policy in Uzbekistan.

Article 10 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states: "The society and the state recognize the human being, their life, freedom, honor, dignity, and other inalienable rights as the highest value" [2]. This constitutional norm confirms that protecting the rights and interests of individuals from any form of abuse, including corruption, is a fundamental duty of the state. Corruption inflicts not only economic damage but also violates the fundamental rights of citizens—such as equal access to education, healthcare, fair justice, and other public services.

According to World Bank studies, countries with high levels of corruption experience economic growth rates that are 1–2% lower, and the volume of investments decreases significantly [3]. This demonstrates the urgency and necessity of the fight against corruption from both a legal and an economic standpoint. The objective of this article is to analyze the significance of the anti-corruption struggle in societal development from theoretical and practical perspectives, assess the current state of anti-corruption policy in Uzbekistan, and formulate proposals for its improvement.

Various definitions of corruption exist in the scientific literature. Transparency International defines corruption as "the abuse of entrusted power for private gain" [4]. In contrast, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption" dated January 3, 2017, defines corruption as "the unlawful use by an official of their position or official powers, directly or indirectly, to obtain material benefits or advantages for personal interest" [5].

Academically, corruption is divided into several main types.

First, *administrative corruption*—bribery carried out by public servants through the abuse of their powers. Second, *political corruption*—the unlawful use of financial resources to influence political processes. Third, *grand corruption*—actions carried out by high-ranking officials that cause nation-wide damage [6].

V.V. Lunev highlights the role of corruption as a criminogenic factor, defining it as "the most dangerous crime in terms of its social nature" [7]. In turn, the Uzbek legal scholar A. Sobirov evaluates corruption as "a systemic phenomenon that directly impacts the socio-economic development of society" [8]. These approaches demonstrate that corruption is not merely an individual offense, but a systemic problem.

Corruption is a complex phenomenon; it simultaneously damages the economic, social, and political spheres.

From an economic perspective, corruption worsens the investment climate, leads to the misappropriation of budget funds, and distorts market competition. According to World Bank estimates, approximately \$2.6 trillion is lost annually worldwide due to corruption [9].

The consequences in the social sphere are equally critical. In the education system, corruption creates opportunities to purchase diplomas and certificates, increasing the number of unqualified specialists. In healthcare, corruption lowers the quality of medical services and negatively affects life expectancy [10]. Decree No. PF-60 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 7, 2022, "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan," identifies reducing corruption as one of the key targets for improving the quality of education and healthcare [11].

From the standpoint of political consequences, corruption destroys trust in state institutions and derails democratic processes. According to Yu.I. Stetsovskiy, "Corruption challenges the legitimacy of state bodies and reduces the political activity of citizens" [12]. This, in turn, hinders the development of civil society and creates a breeding ground for political instability. The legal framework for combating corruption in Uzbekistan has expanded significantly in recent years. The Law "On Combating Corruption," adopted in 2017, serves as the core regulatory document in this area. In accordance with this law, the fight against corruption is carried out in the following main directions: ensuring transparency in public administration; declaring the property status and income of officials; and creating a system for citizens to report corruption offenses [5].

Articles 10, 36, and 37 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan establish the obligations of the state toward its citizens, which require the actions of state bodies to be transparent and accountable [2]. The establishment of the Anti-Corruption Agency in 2020 was a crucial step toward institutionally strengthening the fight against corruption in Uzbekistan. The Agency's mandates include detecting, preventing, and investigating corruption offenses [13].

Anti-corruption norms are also reflected in current criminal procedure legislation. Articles 210–211 of the Criminal Code prescribe penalties for giving and taking bribes, Article 212 for mediation in bribery, and Article 213 for commercial bribery. Recent amendments to these norms have further strengthened accountability for bribery [14].

International practice demonstrates that several approaches have been particularly effective in combating corruption:

- **The Singapore Model:** This model combines very high salaries for public servants with strict disciplinary oversight. The Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB), established in Singapore in 1952, remains recognized as one of the most effective anti-corruption agencies in the world [15].

- **The Scandinavian Experience:** The low level of corruption in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark is primarily attributed to three factors: the transparency of administrative processes, a strong civil society, and an independent press. In these countries, information regarding the assets of public servants is published in open databases and can be verified by any citizen [16].

- **Digital Technology Integration:** Implementing digital solutions plays a vital role in reducing corruption. In Estonia, the "e-Estonia" platform transitioned public services completely online, minimizing the human factor and sharply reducing corruption levels [17]. The development of the e-government system in Uzbekistan serves the same purpose.

According to a survey conducted among investigators and prosecutors, 58% of law enforcement officers identify the insufficient enforcement of the inevitability of punishment as the primary cause of corruption. Meanwhile, 47% of respondents consider weak preventive measures to be the main issue [18].

The role of civil society in the fight against corruption is steadily increasing. Independent media, non-governmental non-profit organizations, and active citizens are all essential elements of the anti-corruption framework. As L.V. Makkarov notes, "Where public oversight is absent, corruption is capable of self-reproduction" [19].

The introduction of the Public Appeals System (the Virtual Reception and "Single Window") in Uzbekistan since 2017 has expanded the opportunities for citizens to oversee the activities of state bodies. According to official data for 2023, more than 2.4 million appeals were received through this portal, 94.2% of which were resolved in a timely manner [20].

In a survey we conducted among one hundred citizens, 34% of respondents stated they fear reporting corruption facts, while 28% believe that reporting will not yield any results. This data underscores the urgent need to increase citizen trust in anti-corruption mechanisms and to strengthen guarantees of anonymity.

An analysis of the current anti-corruption system reveals several problematic areas:

1. **Risk of political motivation:** The fight against corruption can sometimes be used as a tool to eliminate competitors. This phenomenon, known as "selective justice," raises doubts about the objectivity of the anti-corruption struggle [21].

2. **Petty administrative corruption:** Addressing everyday bribery presents distinct difficulties. According to research by Russian scholar O.I. Tsokova, because citizens encounter petty administrative corruption directly, it is more likely to become normalized as a social norm compared to grand corruption [22].

3. **Weak anti-corruption education:** Fostering an environment of zero tolerance toward corruption among youth must be established as a long-term direction of state policy. D. Bazarova emphasizes: "The formation of an anti-corruption culture must begin at the school education level and be pursued systematically" [23].

Based on the above analysis, the following scientific, theoretical, and practical recommendations are proposed:

- **First:** Further strengthen the independence of the Anti-Corruption Agency of Uzbekistan by granting it financial and organizational autonomy. The Agency should be

accountable solely to Parliament, and the procedure for appointing its leadership must be shielded from political influence.

- **Second:** Establish a comprehensive legislative framework for the "Whistleblower" institution. The experience of many developed nations shows that confidential reporting mechanisms are among the most effective ways to detect corruption. It is recommended to adopt a specialized law to develop this institution in Uzbekistan.
- **Third:** Utilize digital technologies to make public procurement and budget expenditures entirely transparent. Every state contract, tender result, and budget expenditure must be disclosed to the public to ensure transparency in public finance and minimize opportunities for corruption.
- **Fourth:** Integrate anti-corruption education into the general secondary education curriculum. Citizens must be fully informed about their rights, the obligations of state bodies, and the necessity of a zero-tolerance attitude toward corrupt behavior.
- **Fifth:** Ensure that the *inevitability of punishment* serves as the core criterion in judicial practice regarding corruption crimes. International experience confirms that the certainty of punishment, rather than its sheer severity, is the most effective deterrent.

In conclusion, the fight against corruption is not a one-time campaign but a continuous, consistent, and systemic effort involving the state, civil society, and every citizen. It remains an essential prerequisite for the sustainable development of society and the protection of human rights.

#### REFERENCES:

1. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 12, 2023, No. PF-158 "On the Strategy 'Uzbekistan – 2030'" // <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/6600413>
2. Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Tashkent, 2023 // <https://lex.uz/docs/6445145>
3. World Bank. (2021). Worldwide Governance Indicators. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Publications.
4. Transparency International. (2023). Corruption Perceptions Index. Berlin: Transparency International Secretariat.
5. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 3, 2017, No. ZRU-419 "On Combating Corruption" // Collection of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2017, No. 1.
6. Rose-Ackerman, S., & Palifka, B. J. (2016). Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences, and Reform. Cambridge University Press.
7. Luneev, V. V. Corruption: Political, Economic, Organizational and Legal Problems. – Moscow: Yurist, 2001. – 427 p.
8. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2022). Global Report on Corruption. Vienna: UNODC.
9. Mauro, P. (1995). Corruption and Growth. Quarterly Journal of Economics, 110(3), 681-712.
10. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 28, 2022, No. PF-60 "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan" // <https://lex.uz/docs/5841063>
11. Stetsovskiy, Yu. I. Criminal Investigation and the Fight against Corruption. – Moscow: Infra-M, 2005. – p. 214.
12. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 29, 2020, No. PF-6013 "On Additional Measures to Improve the Anti-Corruption System in the Republic of Uzbekistan" // <https://lex.uz/docs/4875787>
13. Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Tashkent, 2024 // <https://lex.uz/docs/111457>

14. Quah, J. S. (2011). *Curbing Corruption in Asian Countries: An Impossible Dream?* Emerald Group Publishing.
15. Erlingsson, G. Ö., & Kristinsson, J. H. (2016). Making Bureaucrats Clean: The Scandinavian Experience. *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 39(2), 123-142.
16. Charles, G. (2020). *e-Estonia: Governance and Digital Transformation*. Tallinn: Baltic Academic Press.
17. Analytical report of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2023. Tashkent, 2024.

