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Annotation: The article provides a scientific substantiation of the new stage in combating corruption in connection with the newly revised Constitution.

Key words: Constitution, new Uzbekistan, strategy, progress, sovereign state, democratic state, rule of law, social state, secular state, law, legality, justice, corruption.

Introduction

The international non-governmental organization Transparency International (TI) announced the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2025 on February 11, 2026 (hereinafter referred to as the Rating / CPI). According to the results of the Corruption Perceptions Index for 2025, Uzbekistan has consistently improved its position in the index and ranked 124th out of 182 countries with 30 points [1].

Transparency International noted that the level of corruption in the world continues to rise, including in democratic countries. According to the 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), the indicators have worsened in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, as well as in a number of European countries. It should be emphasized that in 2025 the global average score for corruption amounted to 42 points, which is the lowest result in more than the past decade. More than two-thirds of the countries in the world scored below 50 points, while the number of states scoring above 80 points decreased from 12 to 5 over the past ten years.

In the updated Uzbekistan–2030 Strategy (February 16, 2026), combating corruption has been identified as one of the most important priority areas, and the country has set a goal to improve its position by 20 points by 2030 [2].

Analysis and Review of Sources

The country has set a goal to improve its position by 20 points by 2030. The timely and high-quality implementation of these measures constitutes the main objective of our efforts aimed at ensuring New Uzbekistan's victory over corruption and pursuing a policy of "clean hands." This goal is to be achieved through the practical enforcement of the principles of justice and the rule of law, eliminating the scourge of corruption, and ensuring that our country joins the ranks of states that reject corruption and foster an environment of absolute intolerance and uncompromising attitude toward it within society.

Article 14 of the newly revised Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that the state shall carry out its activities on the basis of the principles of legality, social justice, and solidarity in order to ensure human well-being and the sustainable development of society [3]. Thus, ensuring sustainable development has been established as one of the main objectives of state activity.

It can be seen that the idea of a social state is reflected in the provision that the state carries out its activities with the aim of ensuring the sustainable development of society.

Article 1 of the newly revised Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states: "Uzbekistan is a sovereign, democratic, legal, social, and secular state with a republican form of government" [3].

Uzbekistan is a rule-of-law state. In a rule-of-law state, all processes are based on legal foundations, requiring state officials to think within the framework of the law and approach all issues from a legal perspective.

In a rule-of-law state, all citizens are equal before the law, and the highest bodies of state power also comply with the laws, ensuring their mandatory implementation.

A rule-of-law state requires that all relations be regulated by clear rules. In New Uzbekistan, the decisive principle that “state bodies must serve the people, not the other way around” is being realized in practice. ...Ensuring the supremacy of law and justice is the most important condition for building New Uzbekistan [4, pp. 27, 48].

Chapter III of our Constitution is titled “Supremacy of the Constitution and the Law” [3].

Article 15. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the supremacy of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan is unquestionably recognized.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan has the highest legal force throughout the entire territory of the country, operates directly, and forms the basis of a unified legal space.

International treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan are, along with generally recognized principles and norms of international law, an integral part of the legal system of Uzbekistan.

If an international treaty of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes provisions that differ from those set forth in the laws of Uzbekistan, the provisions of the international treaty shall apply.

The state and its bodies, other organizations, officials, civil society institutions, and citizens act in accordance with the Constitution and laws.

In the newly revised Constitution, it is explicitly stated that Uzbekistan is a rule-of-law state. Scholars emphasize, based on this article, that New Uzbekistan is a state based on the supremacy of the Constitution and law. In such a state, officials cannot arbitrarily seize power or make decisions at their discretion. All state bodies act solely within the authority granted by law [5].

Ensuring that Uzbekistan joins the ranks of the world’s advanced, socially and economically stable, and high human-capital democratic states constitutes the essence and core of our sustainable development strategy.

Today, New Uzbekistan is pursuing a determined and consistent path of reforms in the field of combating corruption—reforms that have a direct, positive impact on the lives and future of our citizens, whose results are visible in each individual’s daily life, and which, in turn, enhance our country’s international prestige as a democratic and progressive state.

To secure a respected position in the international community and maintain a stable role in global politics and the economy, it is essential to combat the social phenomenon of corruption.

Based on the requirements of the UN Convention against Corruption, and for the first time in the history of our country, due to the political will of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Combating Corruption” was adopted on January 3, 2017 [6].

It should be noted that prior to 2017, Uzbekistan lacked a targeted legal framework for combating corruption, as the law “On Combating Corruption” had not yet been established.

To ensure the consistency of anti-corruption measures, state programs were adopted every two years: 2017–2018 [7], 2019–2020 [8], 2021–2022 [9], and 2023–2024 [10].

The newly revised Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted on April 30, 2023, includes four provisions related to combating corruption:

The Parliament hears an annual national report on combating corruption in Uzbekistan (Article 93);

The Senate of the Oliy Majlis elects the head of the national anti-corruption body (Article 95);

The President of Uzbekistan nominates a candidate for the head of the national anti-corruption body (Article 109) [3].

Experience has shown that traditional methods of combating corruption are no longer sufficiently effective. Therefore, in state and public administration, we are moving forward with modern, impactful, and, when necessary, decisive measures aimed at preventing corruption and

creating an uncompromising environment against it, in line with the demands of the times and development.

The inclusion of anti-corruption provisions in the newly revised Constitution for the first time clearly demonstrates the significance of these reforms for the development of our country.

Between 2017 and 2025, the legal and institutional foundations for combating corruption were established. As a result, a mechanism was created for effectively implementing anti-corruption reforms under a unified approach, ensuring consistent and systematic progress in this field.

On November 27, 2023, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed Decree No. 200 “On Measures to Further Improve the Anti-Corruption System and Enhance the Effectiveness of Public Oversight over the Activities of State Bodies and Organizations” [11], which laid the groundwork for continuing anti-corruption reforms in a more rigorous and systematic manner. Under this decree, the next State Program for Combating Corruption for 2023–2024 was approved.

Upon reviewing the State Program, its relevant provisions outline important measures in priority areas, including: public administration, civil service, administrative procedures, public procurement, socio-economic development and entrepreneurship, judicial and legal sectors, prevention of corruption, strengthening institutional foundations for anti-corruption, enhancing citizens’ legal awareness and culture, fostering an uncompromising societal attitude toward corruption, and strengthening international cooperation. Based on ongoing reforms in New Uzbekistan, further improvement of the legal foundations for combating corruption is envisaged.

According to the State Program for 2023–2024, the development of a national anti-corruption strategy through 2030 is of great importance for identifying and analyzing factors contributing to corruption, evaluating and improving the effectiveness of existing anti-corruption mechanisms, and accelerating efforts to foster a zero-tolerance attitude toward corruption in society.

The decree aims to increase the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts, expand the availability of open information on key social issues, ensure unhindered access to such information, and achieve the objectives outlined in the “Uzbekistan – 2030” Strategy.

Quarterly Analysis of Corruption Crimes: The decree mandates that the Anti-Corruption Agency analyze corruption-related offenses committed within state bodies and organizations each quarter. A formal submission must be made for organizations where such offenses are increasing, requiring immediate corrective actions with the participation of agency officials.

Semiannual Review of Preventive Measures: Every six months, measures taken to prevent corruption and eliminate contributing factors will be critically discussed at National Anti-Corruption Council meetings, with the participation of heads of relevant state bodies and organizations.

Open Data and Transparency: Open data is recognized as an important tool for government transparency and the development of the digital economy. A strict list of socially significant information to be published by state bodies and organizations has been established, including the platform, update frequency, and responsible executors.

Expansion of Open Data Scope: The decree further broadens the list of information to be published, enabling solutions to pressing social issues. For example, to prevent widespread fraud and ensure transparency in queuing systems, a single online queue for pilgrims performing the Hajj has been introduced, continuously updated, and accessible to all.

Transparency in Examinations and Admissions: The decree requires live online broadcasts for PhD and DSc dissertation defenses, entrance exams to secondary vocational and professional education institutions, Presidential schools, specialized schools, and military department admissions.

Financial Transparency of Extra-Budgetary Funds: Information on the use of funds received by state bodies and organizations—such as fines, leasing or sale of state property, and paid services—

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will be publicly disclosed, including data on canceled court decisions resulting from unlawful actions by officials.

Public Procurement Control: Mechanisms for monitoring prices in public procurement will be improved, with the starting price of goods set based on the official public procurement portal. The Anti-Corruption Agency is authorized to draw up reports on administrative violations, suspend procurement procedures if necessary, and restrict participation of legal entities and their officials involved in corrupt practices or conflicts of interest.

Monitoring of Hotlines and Feedback Systems: The agency will monitor the effectiveness of state bodies' hotlines. Through the new "Confidential Customer Feedback" system, the functionality of hotline numbers and official website contacts will be continuously checked remotely, and any identified deficiencies will be reported to the relevant state bodies for corrective action.

This decree represents a comprehensive and systematic approach to combating corruption, combining preventive, institutional, technological, and transparency measures to strengthen governance and public oversight in Uzbekistan.

It is well known that the Anti-Corruption Agency has established a continuous practice of raising awareness and knowledge of anti-corruption principles among the public and civil servants based on the "Vaccine of Integrity" approach. During this period, training programs, textbooks, and manuals have been developed. Within the framework of the "Distance Professional Development Course for Civil Servants" (ilm.argos.uz), over 50,000 civil servants have participated and obtained certificates. At the Academy of Law Enforcement, 20 professional development events were conducted for 698 employees of state bodies and other organizations in the field of anti-corruption.

According to the State Program, these efforts will now continue in a systematic manner. In particular, the "Open Data" e-learning platform will be launched to provide online training for officials responsible for ensuring transparency in state bodies. At the end of each module, participants' knowledge and skills will be assessed through tests, and the results will be publicly published in the form of a scored ranking.

The newly revised Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan explicitly states that Uzbekistan is a rule-of-law state. Experts emphasize that New Uzbekistan is a state based on the supremacy of the Constitution and the law, where officials cannot arbitrarily seize power or make decisions at their discretion; all state bodies act solely within the authority granted by law [5]. In a rule-of-law state, all citizens enjoy equal rights and freedoms, regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, belief, personal characteristics, or social status, ensuring equality before the law.

The effective implementation of measures to strengthen law enforcement and legality is directly linked to the professional competence of personnel responsible for executing state decisions, maintaining public order, and combating crime. Therefore, providing qualified personnel for law enforcement bodies is one of the most urgent tasks facing the ministry today, and special attention is paid to the selection of candidates for service in the internal affairs bodies of Uzbekistan.

It should be noted that the State Program approved by the President on January 28, 2022 ("Strategy for the Development of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026," Decree No. PF-60) includes Goal 17, titled: "Shaping a New Image of Law Enforcement Bodies and Directing Their Activities to Effectively Protect Public Interests, Human Dignity, Rights, and Freedoms" [12].

Furthermore, the Code of Professional Culture and Service Discipline for Internal Affairs Officers, approved by Presidential Decree No. PQ-10 on January 20, 2023 [13], is directed at the following objectives:

Training officers as morally and ethically responsible representatives of the state, loyal to their duty, patriotic, and devoted to the people, following the principle of "For the Dignity of the Human Being";

Instilling in officers a conscientious, honest, and responsible approach to their duties, with full respect for universally recognized moral and ethical norms;

Preventing misconduct, abuse, and corruption within internal affairs bodies, and avoiding situations that could undermine the reputation of the law enforcement system.

The Code emphasizes virtues such as integrity, humanity, honesty, courage, intellectual curiosity, and patriotism, contributing to the creation of morally and professionally exemplary modern law enforcement personnel.

As in all other fields, innovative technologies are being introduced in crime prevention and anti-corruption work. Within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, these measures are being systematically implemented in stages. The legal basis for using modern technologies and information systems in law enforcement is established in the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Internal Affairs Bodies” (No. URQ-407), adopted on September 16, 2016. Article 12 of this law specifically addresses the use of scientific achievements, modern technologies, and information systems, providing a framework for regulating these processes [14].

In recent years, Uzbekistan has undertaken extensive organizational and practical measures to enhance the scientific and technical capacity of internal affairs bodies in preventing and combating crime.

Mastering constitutional norms and regulatory documents, and developing practical skills for their independent study, interpretation, and application, is a requirement of our time. Living and serving with respect for the law is one of the fundamental principles of a legal and democratic state and is essential for the effective functioning of political and legal institutions.

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