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**ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM
STATE POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

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Key words. Corruption, convention, law, compliance service, state legal policy, state program, action plan, national council, conflict of interest, corruption factor, offense, legal liability.

Corruption is a scourge of the twenty-first century and is fundamentally different from other crimes in that it is aimed at destabilizing state power and governance. Corruption does not arise on its own, but arises and develops under the influence of its factors.

In his address to the International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9, 2012, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized the tragic consequences of corruption for the economies and societies of countries. Based on the opinions expressed by many experts, it can be said that the following factors contribute to the emergence and development of corruption:

1. Economic situation (low wages, dependence of a civil servant on private business, unfair competition, monopoly, etc.).

2. Shortcomings in the activities of institutional structures (low qualifications of civil servants, weak internal control, gaps in legislation, etc.).

3. The presence of negative socio-cultural factors (discipline, lack of honesty, lack of public control, etc.).

Today, our republic has sufficient legal foundations for combating and combating corruption. In 2008, Uzbekistan ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted on October 31, 2003, and the state developed and began implementing specific measures to combat corruption. During the implementation of reforms in this area, special attention was paid to the issue of implementing generally recognized norms of international law into national legislation. The Law "On the Accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (New York, October 31, 2003)" was adopted in 2008, and in 2010, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development joined the Istanbul Action Plan of the Anti-Corruption Network.

The annual address of the head of state highlights the issue of combating corruption, and the adoption of numerous legislative acts in this area demonstrates the importance of the issue of combating corruption at the level of state policy.

The penetration of corruption into the education sector, especially the higher education system, weakens the immunity of young people to combat corruption. Therefore, in order to prevent corruption offenses in the field of higher education, study their causes and conditions, and eliminate them, a "Roadmap" was adopted for 2022-2023, approved

by the National Anti-Corruption Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan. At the 7th meeting of the National Council on April 5, 2022, the "Roadmap" for 2022-2023 for the implementation of the "corruption-free sphere" project in the field of higher education was approved.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev: "Unless all segments of the population, the best specialists, are involved in the fight against corruption, and all members of our society, so to speak, are vaccinated with the "honesty vaccine," we will not be able to achieve the high goals set before us." "We need to move from combating the consequences of corruption to its early prevention."

The "honesty vaccine" manifests itself in a sense of hatred and active resistance to corruption, which is formed in the mind and heart of a person. The "honesty vaccine" should be instilled in the minds of any person from an early age. It is carried out in the form of upbringing and education. Therefore, if every person performs his work honestly and objectively, he will be vaccinated with the "honesty vaccine." The task of developing such immunity is primarily entrusted to parents, staff of preschool and general secondary educational institutions, leaders at various levels, as well as the intellectual and spiritually-minded segment of our society.

The head of our state, Sh. Mirziyoyev, emphasized: "We must take decisive measures to combat corruption, the commission of various crimes and other offenses in our society, to prevent them, and to ensure in practice the requirements of the law that punishment for a crime is, undoubtedly, inevitable." Therefore, corruption negatively affects the effectiveness of many reforms in the life of society and the state. The French thinker S.L. Montesquieu also warned about this in his time.

All the speeches of the President are aimed at preventing the emergence of corruption in the field of education, in particular, higher education, its prevention, detection of offenses, improvement of institutional standards. Purposes 46-51 of the State Program for the Implementation of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026 in the "Year of Human Care and Quality Education," approved by Presidential Decree No. UP-27 of February 28, 2023, outlined reforms and urgent measures related to higher education.

We are systematically implementing legal and institutional reforms in the fight against corruption. Having adopted the Anti-Corruption Law, we have established a specially authorized Agency. We are widely implementing preventive mechanisms aimed at ensuring openness and transparency of government activities and increasing accountability, reducing bureaucracy and simplifying public services, and preventing corruption. In particular, compliance and performance assessment rating systems have been established in all government agencies. Public procurement has been fully digitized.

At the same time, the non-compliance of the specialties of most teaching staff, including heads of departments, subject to rotation in higher education institutions, with the corresponding specialties of equivalent positions, in turn, negatively affects the elimination of situations that contradict the management of existing conflicts of

interest. According to the report of the Anti-Corruption Agency, in 2022 alone, departments for combating corruption and managing the "compliance control" system were established in 96 state higher education institutions on the basis of 162 staff units. They are responsible for forming an uncompromising attitude towards corruption, early detection and prevention of corrupt situations, eliminating the circumstances and conditions that lead to their occurrence, preventing conflicts of interest, tasks have been set to ensure transparency and openness in the processes of public procurement and recruitment of citizens. In order to improve the professional skills of employees of these departments, hourly distance learning courses were organized, and 50 employees were awarded certificates by the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office.

In order to increase the legal culture of students and teachers in the field of combating corruption and prevent corruption offenses, the official Telegram bot @Eduantisruption Bot and the e-mail antisor@yedu.uz were launched. "Justice boxes" have been installed in the educational buildings of higher educational institutions.

In addition, amendments and additions were made to some regulatory legal acts in this area. Systemic corruption has been prevented in the sphere, and the level of corruption risks has been minimized. The information system for managing higher education processes (HEMIS), the procedure for transferring education from abroad to state universities through the State Testing Center, admission to master's degrees without examinations, and declaration filling systems have been introduced for all employees to prevent conflicts of interest. To ensure transparency in recruitment, a monthly announcement of the number of vacancies was established on the website <http://ish.mehnat.uz/> of the national vacancy database.

In 2022 alone, anti-corruption units identified 49 cases of corruption in higher education institutions and submitted them to law enforcement agencies for legal assessment. Appropriate measures were taken against 80 employees for misconduct. In 56 cases, conflicts of interest related to the work of mutual subordination of close relatives were identified, 30 employees were transferred to other positions, 4 employees were dismissed from their positions, and appropriate measures were taken against 22 employees.

In studies conducted to identify corruption in the process of public procurement and verify the reliability of counterparties 6 higher education institutions (Tashkent State Technical University, Andijan Machine-Building Institute, Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology, Tashkent Institute of Textile and Light Industry, Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages and Navoi State Mining and Technological University) were found to have violated the law.

Despite the strengthening of similar measures aimed at preventing corruption in the higher education system, corruption factors still persist in the sphere. In particular, there is still cronyism, conflict of interest, localism, and nepotism and corrupt threats such as nepotism. In particular, the low level of protection of the HEMIS platform, the submission of course papers and final qualification papers, the acceptance of creative (professional) exams, the selection and recommendation of candidates for various

scholarships and awards, the employment of citizens, the appointment of employees to senior positions, the establishment of bonuses to their monthly salaries, the implementation of processes related to the rental of buildings on the balance sheet of higher education institutions with the participation of the human factor is the cause of corruption.

In order to increase the effectiveness of work carried out in the field of preventing and combating corruption, further expand the scope of open data on important social issues, ensure unhindered access to them, as well as to implement the tasks set in the "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed a resolution on November 27, 2023 "On further improving the anti-corruption system and ensuring the protection of state bodies and organizations from corruption." Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. UP-200 "On measures to increase the effectiveness of the public control system over the activities of organizations and organizations."

This decree approved the state anti-corruption program for 2023-2024 and defined the measures to be implemented in this program, the mechanism for their implementation and responsible executors. According to the decree, the "State Anti-Corruption Program for 2023-2024" consists of 30 items (Appendix 1) has been approved.

The decree strengthens an important direction related to the prevention and suppression of corruption in the field of higher education. In particular, the defense of the dissertation (with the exception of closed scientific works), conducted by the scientific council for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Doctor of Science (DSc), will be carried out in secondary specialized and professional educational institutions (including "Temurbeklar maktablari" military-academic lyceums) test exams and entrance exams to Presidential, creative and specialized schools, the following stages of selection competitions for admission to the faculties of military education (military department) on the basis of higher educational institutions, the assessment of general physical fitness, the process of assessing the level of knowledge on the program of pre-conscription initial training was introduced.

In conclusion, to achieve the effectiveness of combating corruption in higher education, it is first necessary to improve its legal foundations. It is also necessary to introduce modern educational standards, change the system of training, selection, placement, professional development and retraining of modern personnel in the education system, change the worldview of civil servants in this area. Establishing education without the human factor can also lead to a decrease in corruption in the field. Education without corruption is the future and guarantee of the state.

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