

## PRINCIPAL DIRECTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION

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**Annotation.** *Corruption is a global problem that causes millions of dollars in losses every year, and international cooperation is necessary to prevent this situation. Corruption remains a significant barrier to development, governance, and public trust globally. International cooperation is essential for effectively combating corruption, which often transcends national boundaries. This thesis examines the principal directions of international cooperation in the fight against corruption, focusing on legal frameworks, institutional collaboration, information sharing, and capacity building. By analyzing these dimensions, the article highlights best practices and identifies opportunities for enhanced global collaboration in combating corruption.*

**Keywords.** *International Cooperation, Anti-Corruption, Legal Frameworks, Institutional Collaboration, The model of Western European countries, The model of Southeast Asian countries, The US model, the UN, the European Union, the World Bank.*

### Introduction

Corruption is often transnational in nature, and corruption cases that occur in one country can also affect other countries. Therefore, international cooperation is a prerequisite for combating corruption. International cooperation allows countries to exchange experiences, improve legislation, and develop strategies to combat corruption on a global scale. International organizations such as the UN, the European Union, and the World Bank play an important role in developing programs and strategies to combat corruption. These organizations help countries to assist, exchange experiences, and improve anti-corruption legislation. International cooperation also facilitates the exchange of financial resources and grants between countries, which helps to implement programs necessary to combat corruption. Combating corruption not only ensures economic growth, but also supports social justice and sustainable development. Corruption negatively affects the economic development of countries. It reduces investment, limits the effective use of state budget funds, and undermines social justice. Corruption problems are often international in scope, requiring cooperation between countries. Cooperation between international organizations, states, and non-governmental organizations is necessary to combat corruption.

### Main part

In recent years, the issue of combating corruption has been recognized by the international community as one of the most pressing global problems. The international community has recognized that this vice is not only an internal problem of countries, but also a transnational

phenomenon that affects the economies of all countries, and international cooperation mechanisms to combat corruption are being updated. Today, when we talk about international cooperation in combating corruption, we mean not only the extradition of individuals who have committed corruption by a foreign partner, conducting investigative actions or returning assets, but also a wide range of measures to increase the efficiency of the system, such as exchanging experience, improving personnel skills, implementing joint projects, developing proposals and recommendations, organizing events in the format of various international and regional organizations, and conducting joint scientific and sociological research. UN Secretary-General A. Guterres noted in his speech on June 3, 2021: "In cooperation, we must create stronger systems for accountability, transparency and integrity." We can see the devastating impact of corruption on the economy, politics, and social life of countries through vivid examples in the crises of several countries. At the same time, a number of countries with effective practices in combating corruption, such as Singapore, Sweden, and Finland, are recognized as among the most developed countries today. [1]

The effectiveness of the anti-corruption system of countries is achieved through the use of regional and international cooperation mechanisms, namely, the organization of joint activities aimed at combating corruption, the exchange of experience, the development of recommendations within international organizations, and scientific and material and technical support.

To achieve these goals, multilateral cooperation in combating corruption in the international community has been established. Since the last years of the 20th century, a number of international documents have been adopted. In particular:

- The Inter-American Convention against Corruption adopted by the Organization of American States on March 29, 1996;

- Convention on the fight against corruption involving European Community officials or officials of Member States of the European Union, adopted by the Council of the European Union on 26 May 1997;

- Convention on combating bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions, adopted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on 21 November 1997;

- Convention on criminal liability for corruption, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 27 January 1999;

- Convention on civil liability for corruption, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 4 November 1999;

- African Union Convention on preventing and combating corruption, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union on 12 July 2003.

The adoption of the above documents paved the way for the adoption of the UN Convention against Corruption on December 9, 2003, a universal document containing uniform international standards for combating corruption. To date, 189 countries of the world have signed the Convention, and the Republic of Uzbekistan acceded to the Convention by the Law of July 7, 2008 "On the Accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (New York, October 31, 2003)". The main areas of

the Convention are preventive measures, ensuring the inevitability of liability and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, technical assistance and information exchange.

It is worth noting that Article 6 of the Convention stipulates that each State Party shall ensure that, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system, there is a body or, where appropriate, bodies responsible for the prevention of corruption.

Each country has its own experience and practice in combating corruption, of which we can list 3 main models that are widespread in the world:

- the model of Western European countries (strengthening the role of the media, increasing the activity of the public and business community, ensuring transparency and accountability of state bodies and organizations);
- the model of Southeast Asian countries (improving the skills of personnel, establishing separate institutions to combat corruption);
- the US model (improving the regulatory and legal framework for combating corruption, codes of conduct for civil servants). The effectiveness of the anti-corruption system of countries can be increased by using regional and international cooperation mechanisms, that is, organizing joint events aimed at combating corruption, exchanging experiences, developing recommendations within international organizations, and providing scientific and material and technical support.[2]

The UN, the European Union, the World Bank and other international organizations develop programs and strategies to combat corruption. They help countries to assist, exchange experiences and improve legislation. Internationally adopted conventions, such as the UN Convention against Corruption (2003) and the OECD Convention against Corruption (1997), help countries develop the necessary legislation to combat corruption. The effectiveness of the fight against corruption can be increased by exchanging experiences between countries, studying successful practices and implementing them in their own countries. International financial institutions provide financial resources and grants to combat corruption. These resources help countries and organizations implement anti-corruption programs.

Singapore is known for its strict anti-corruption policy. The country has exchanged experiences through international cooperation and improved its legislation together with international organizations. As a result, Singapore has become one of the least corrupt countries in the world. Ghana with international organizations to combat corruption. jointly developed a "National Anti-Corruption Strategy". This strategy attracted international support and resources, which helped reduce corruption in the country. Estonia has succeeded in fighting corruption through its digital transformation. Through international cooperation, programs aimed at increasing digital services and transparency have been implemented, which has helped reduce corruption.[3]

Among the international institutions in the fight against corruption, the United Nations plays an important role. Among the documents adopted by the UN aimed at combating corruption, the Convention against Corruption was adopted in December 2003. Of great importance is the Convention against Corruption [4]. The Republic of Uzbekistan acceded to

this Convention by the law of July 7, 2008. In the fight against corruption, not only the UN, but also the European Union and the World Bank are of great importance.

Regional organizations have developed their own anti-corruption frameworks tailored to specific regional contexts. For example, the Organization of American States (OAS) has established the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, while the African Union has enacted the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. These agreements facilitate cooperation among member states and promote shared standards.

Legal frameworks also encompass mechanisms for mutual legal assistance, enabling countries to cooperate in investigations and prosecutions of corruption-related offenses. This includes extradition agreements and processes for sharing evidence across borders.

Collaboration among institutions at both national and international levels is vital for effective anti-corruption efforts.

**Role of International Organizations.** International organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Transparency International, and the World Bank play crucial roles in coordinating global anti-corruption initiatives. They provide technical assistance, resources, and expertise to countries in developing their anti-corruption strategies.

**Cross-Border Task Forces.** Creating cross-border task forces that involve law enforcement agencies from multiple countries can significantly enhance the ability to address transnational corruption cases. These collaborative efforts allow for coordinated investigations and operations.

**Partnerships with Civil Society.** Engaging civil society organizations in anti-corruption initiatives fosters transparency and accountability. Civil society can serve as a watchdog, providing insights into corruption dynamics and advocating for reforms.

Effective information sharing mechanisms are critical for enhancing international cooperation in combating corruption.

International cooperation can facilitate resource mobilization for anti-corruption efforts through grants, funding programs, and partnerships with private sector stakeholders.

In recent years, a number of conceptually significant regulatory and legal acts have been adopted in our country in the field of combating corruption, which take into account the requirements of this convention and other international standards.

In particular, the institutional framework for combating corruption has been improved, and on June 29, 2020, two important documents that will give impetus to the development of the sector were adopted: the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to improve the system of combating corruption in the Republic of Uzbekistan" and the Resolution "On the organization of the activities of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan". These documents established a new structure - the Anti-Corruption Agency, which implements state policy aimed at preventing and combating corruption.

In order to widely introduce modern methods and tools for combating corruption in all state organizations, a "compliance control system" was established, and the Agency, in cooperation with the UNODC, developed 10 samples of internal departmental documents on

the organization of the effectiveness of combating corruption in the activities of ministries and departments in accordance with the requirements of the international standard ISO 37001:2016. Today, 12 ministries and departments have received this certificate.

During 2021, the Agency and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime implemented the project "Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Societies for Effective Governance in Central Asia". Within the framework of this document, a methodology for the National Corruption Perception Index was developed, cooperation was carried out on issues such as improving methods for conducting anti-corruption expertise of regulatory documents, conducting sociological research, and studying the experience of foreign countries on the ground.

The project "Assistance in the fight against corruption in Uzbekistan" for 2021-2022 has been developed, and the document is being effectively implemented based on the action plan signed between the two organizations. Within the framework of the project, measures are being taken to ensure the openness of state bodies and organizations and work with open data.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, corruption can be reduced by exchanging experiences between countries, improving legislation, and cooperating with international organizations. International cooperation is crucial in the fight against corruption due to its transnational nature. By focusing on legal frameworks, institutional collaboration, information sharing, and capacity building, countries can enhance their collective ability to combat corruption effectively. Continued efforts to strengthen these areas will be essential for fostering a global environment that promotes transparency, accountability, and good governance.

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