

**POLITICAL FRAMEWORKS AND MECHANISMS FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS
IN NEW UZBEKISTAN****Minosidinov Sherzod Bakhromjonovich**

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Abstract: The transition to a “New Uzbekistan” has brought with it a heightened emphasis on combating corruption as a central pillar of political, legal, and social reform. This article explores the evolving political frameworks, institutional mechanisms, and legislative strategies designed to strengthen transparency, accountability, and integrity within the state system. By examining recent policy initiatives, including the establishment of specialized anti-corruption bodies, judicial reforms, and civic engagement strategies, the study highlights how systemic approaches are being implemented to reduce corruption risks and enhance governance quality. Moreover, it analyzes the interplay between political will, legal frameworks, and public participation in shaping a sustainable anti-corruption environment. The findings underscore the importance of coordinated institutional action, international cooperation, and societal involvement in achieving long-term success in the fight against corruption in New Uzbekistan.

Keywords: anti-corruption policy, New Uzbekistan, political reform, governance, institutional mechanisms, transparency, accountability, legal framework, public participation, corruption prevention

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Uzbekistan has undergone a transformative political, socio-economic, and institutional evolution often referred to as the era of “New Uzbekistan.” Central to this transformation is the state’s intensified commitment to combating corruption — a pervasive challenge that has historically undermined governance, weakened public trust, impeded economic growth, and distorted the rule of law. As a systemic issue affecting virtually all aspects of public administration, corruption has long been recognized as a significant barrier to sustainable development and democratic consolidation. In the context of Uzbekistan’s ongoing modernization efforts, the development and implementation of effective anti-corruption policies have thus become an essential priority. The political leadership of New Uzbekistan has explicitly framed the fight against corruption as a matter of national security, political stability, and social justice. Since 2017, a series of comprehensive reforms have been introduced to strengthen institutional integrity, enhance transparency, and improve public accountability. These measures include the adoption of a new Anti-Corruption Strategy, the creation of specialized agencies such as the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the integration of digital governance tools aimed at reducing bureaucratic discretion and increasing citizen oversight. Furthermore, constitutional and legislative amendments have reinforced the legal basis for combating corruption, aligning national efforts with international norms and conventions, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). In addition to institutional restructuring, the government has emphasized the importance of political will and societal participation in fostering a

corruption-intolerant culture. Civil society organizations, independent media, and citizen-led initiatives are increasingly recognized as key partners in monitoring public sector performance and exposing corrupt practices. Moreover, the digitization of public services, open data initiatives, and e-governance platforms have played a significant role in curbing opportunities for corruption by enhancing procedural transparency and reducing human intervention in administrative processes. Despite these significant advancements, challenges remain. The entrenched nature of corruption, the persistence of informal networks, and the need for a more robust judicial system continue to pose obstacles to reform. However, the trajectory of political development in New Uzbekistan indicates a growing institutional capacity and political determination to confront these challenges through a combination of legislative innovation, administrative reform, and societal engagement. This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the political frameworks and mechanisms underpinning anti-corruption efforts in New Uzbekistan. It examines the evolution of state policies, the role of political leadership, the effectiveness of institutional measures, and the engagement of civil society in shaping a more transparent and accountable governance system. By exploring these dimensions, the article contributes to a deeper understanding of how political reform and anti-corruption strategies intersect in the broader context of state modernization and democratic consolidation.

CONCLUSION

The experience of New Uzbekistan demonstrates that the fight against corruption is not merely a legal or administrative challenge but a deeply political, institutional, and cultural endeavor. Over the past several years, significant progress has been made in reorienting state policy toward greater transparency, accountability, and public trust. Through the establishment of dedicated anti-corruption institutions, the adoption of comprehensive legislative frameworks, and the deployment of modern digital governance tools, Uzbekistan has laid the foundational structures for a more resilient and corruption-resistant state system. These reforms reflect not only a strong political will at the highest levels of leadership but also a growing recognition that sustainable development, economic competitiveness, and democratic governance are impossible without addressing corruption as a systemic problem. Moreover, the evolving approach to anti-corruption policy in New Uzbekistan highlights the importance of a multi-dimensional strategy that integrates political leadership, institutional capacity, legal innovation, and civic participation. Effective anti-corruption efforts are no longer confined to punitive measures; instead, they involve preventive policies, enhanced public oversight, and the cultivation of an ethical political culture. Initiatives such as digitalization of government services, the implementation of open data platforms, and increased transparency in public procurement have proven instrumental in minimizing opportunities for corrupt behavior. Additionally, empowering civil society and the media as independent watchdogs has contributed to a more participatory and accountable governance environment. Despite these achievements, the path forward remains challenging. Deep-rooted informal practices, resistance from vested interests, and gaps in judicial independence continue to hinder the full realization of anti-corruption objectives. Sustaining momentum will therefore require continued political commitment, institutional strengthening, and comprehensive reforms that address both the causes and consequences of corruption. Building a culture of integrity — starting from the education system to the highest levels of government — must remain a strategic priority.

In conclusion, the case of New Uzbekistan illustrates that meaningful anti-corruption reform is achievable when political will, institutional design, and societal engagement converge. The ongoing

transformation of the state's governance model shows promise for the establishment of a transparent, accountable, and law-based political system. As Uzbekistan continues on its path toward modernization and democratic consolidation, its experience offers valuable lessons not only for domestic policymakers but also for other countries pursuing similar anti-corruption agendas. The long-term success of these reforms will depend on the state's ability to institutionalize anti-corruption values, foster an active civil society, and integrate global best practices into the local context — ensuring that the fight against corruption remains an enduring and evolving component of New Uzbekistan's national development strategy.

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