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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 13 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information on the measures of Uzbekistan on streamlining the system of countering corruption in the country (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 106.

(Signed) Bakhtiyor **Ibragimov**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 13 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Measures taken by Uzbekistan to improve the system for countering corruption in the country

In recent years, the Republic of Uzbekistan has consistently implemented large-scale reforms aimed at preventing and countering corruption and eradicating the factors of corruption in all sectors of society throughout the State.

Work is under way to improve the system for assessing the corruption risks that arise from the implementation of tasks and functions assigned to State bodies and to introduce integrity standards in public service. Measures are being implemented to eliminate bureaucratic hurdles and to reduce the “shadow economy” in the country. “Sphere without corruption” projects are also being carried out.

In order to further enhance the effectiveness of public policies aimed at preventing and countering corruption in all sectors of society throughout the State, the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as “the Agency”) was established by presidential decree.

The Agency is a specially authorized State body responsible for establishing and implementing public policies to prevent and counter corruption. It is also responsible for ensuring effective cooperation among State bodies, the mass media, civil society institutions and other representatives of the non-State sector, and for international cooperation in this field. The Agency intends to conduct its activities in accordance with the principles of legality, objectivity, accountability, openness and transparency, and to operate independently of other State bodies, organizations and their officials.

This newly established anti-corruption entity of Uzbekistan is entrusted with following main tasks and activities:

- To establish and implement public policies to prevent and counter corruption, alongside State and other programmes designed to eliminate the systemic causes and conditions of corruption-related offences; and to increase the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures.
- To foster in society an attitude of intolerance towards all manifestations of corruption by developing and implementing comprehensive programmes aimed at raising the legal awareness and legal culture of citizens; to disseminate information on preventing and countering corruption; and to organize anti-corruption training.
- To coordinate the activities of ministries and departments related to preventing and countering corruption; and to organize effective cooperation among State bodies, the mass media, civil society institutions and other representatives of the non-State sector.
- To organize the introduction and effective functioning of an internal anti-corruption monitoring system (compliance monitoring) together with other international instruments designed to combat corruption in State and economic management bodies and State-owned enterprises and companies with a State share in the authorized capital, including banks; to conduct anti-corruption monitoring on the basis of modern methods and information and communications technologies; and to compile a rating of their activities in this field.

- To ensure the effectiveness of anti-corruption assessments of laws and draft regulations; and to develop and implement proposals to improve legislation and introduce international standards and best foreign practices for preventing and countering corruption.
- To organize the introduction and effective functioning of a system for declaring the income and property of government officials; to verify the reliability of declarations; and to ensure a timely response to corruption identified in the course of this work.
- To take effective steps to facilitate the introduction of, and ensure compliance with, integrity standards in public service (the integrity vaccine); and to resolve conflicts of interest.
- To analyse the effectiveness of the anti-corruption monitoring system in the areas of public procurement, the use of budget funds, loans from international organizations and foreign countries and the sale of public assets; and to develop proposals for improving the system.
- To organize sociological, scientific and other research into the status, trends and causes of corruption and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures; and to develop proposals for more effectively preventing and countering corruption.
- To ensure transparency and openness in preventing and countering corruption; and to cooperate effectively with the mass media, civil society institutions and other representatives of the non-State sector.

The Agency's annual national report on countering corruption in Uzbekistan will be made publicly available by through the media. In its work, the Agency cooperates with the specialized anti-corruption committees of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The former national interdepartmental commission on countering corruption and its regional interdepartmental commissions have now been transformed into the National Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Countering Corruption. Those participating in its work include prominent scientists and the heads of scientific and educational institutions as well as non-governmental and non-profit organizations.

The Agency is the National Coordinator of the Republic of Uzbekistan not only for the implementation of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, but also for the implementation of the recommendations formulated and for measures related to the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other international instruments of the Republic of Uzbekistan for countering corruption and coordinating activities in this field.

The Agency aims to develop, in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and other relevant departments, and with the participation of international experts, a road map to improve the position of Uzbekistan in international anti-corruption rankings. It also seeks to further implement international anti-corruption standards in the national legislation of Uzbekistan.