

The Role of Information-Analysis in the Fight Against Corruption of Customs Authorities Introduction

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Abstract: The article highlights the relevance of the fight against corruption, data from international organizations on customs problems, threats of corruption at customs, the importance of information and analytical activities, positive results of the use of information and analytical activities in the fight against corruption.

Keywords: Transparency International, World Customs Organization, Arusha declaration, risk management system, information and analytical activities, information and analytical structure

Today, the importance of information analysis is increasing in all areas of human activity. Due to the fact that information analysis includes all scientific-technical, organizational-management and special science knowledge, it is recognized as the main tool in the fight against corruption by developed countries with advanced experience.

In the fight against corruption in the Republic of Uzbekistan in recent years which based on the best practices in the field requires the wide use of information and analytical activities. Corruption and its level in the republic is a constant focus of attention of local researchers as well as international researchers, and their conclusions have an impact on the country's investment attractiveness.

In particular, the "Transparency International" corruption acceptance index is becoming known as the most popular index that evaluates the level of corruption in countries and the work done by governments to combat it. In the new rating of Transparency International's Corruption acceptance Index for 2020, Uzbekistan has risen by 7 points, and it has been known that a steady increase in the index value has been achieved for 4 years in a row (from 21 points in 2016 to 26 points in 2020)¹.

Taking into account its importance in eliminating corruption, we can see that in all the speeches of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev, phrases related to information-analytical activities such as systematic approach to the problem, critical analysis, increasing the efficiency of the existing system are stated many times. In particular, the book of our state's head "Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan" contains the following points about the fight against corruption: "The experience of international organizations and developed countries, such as Sweden, Finland, Singapore, and South Korea, shows that the most important part of state policy and reforms is to cut the root of corruption designation as one of the directions and systematic work in this regard helped them to achieve high results. As the main task in this is determined to form and implement the state policy in the field of prevention and fight against corruption, to ensure the joint effective activity of state bodies, mass media, civil society institutions and other representatives of the non-

¹<https://anticorruption.uz/uzc/item/2021/02/05/transparency-international-korrupsiyani-qabul-qilish-indeksi-ozbekiston-4-jildan-beri-osish-qajd-etmoqda>

state sector, and the whole society". These words emphasize that the fight against corruption requires the joint action of all, not only the state authorities. In this case, joint action means their goal-oriented activity as sub-system elements of one system. Because all the participants in the counter-fighting activities perform different and unrelated actions, it does not allow to achieve the intended goal. This process creates the need for information-analytical activity in the activity of structures.

Corruption is a socially dangerous phenomenon and fighting against it requires the use of all effective means and a comprehensive approach. Taking into account its corrosive nature almost all countries try to identify corruption and eliminate it. It is already known to everyone that corruption is not limited to the territory of one country, and regional, national and international measures are being used to fight against it. The level of acceptance and awareness of corruption is constantly being studied through various means.

Today, one of the important tools used in the international arena to prevent corruption and other types of crimes is information-analytical activity.

Since the concept of "information-analytical activity" is considered a relatively new term by scientists, different explanations are given about it in different sources.

In particular, A.B. Khalevinskaya called "the process related to the collection, processing, storage, systematization and analysis of information related to the subject of the assigned task" as information analytical activity.

As a result of information-analytical activity, individual facts become a ready-made product intended for state bodies and officials who make and execute certain decisions related to planning, control and coordination. Therefore, in the process of information-analytical activity:

- problems related to an entire organization or its studied area are identified and put into a certain form;
- important information to solve this problem is collected and systematized;
- the specific tasks of solving this problem in the conditions of changing situations are defined;
- a decision based on the results of the information-analytical work aimed at solving the problem is made and implemented;
- the results of the information-analytical work will be reported to the management entity. The importance of information-analytical activity is constantly emphasized by international experts who have conducted research in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In particular, it was prepared by experts as a result of the research conducted during the 4th round of the Istanbul Action Plan on Combating Corruption, launched in 2003, by the Eastern European and Central Asian States Anti-Corruption Network, which was established by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in 1998 and in the OECD report entitled "Anti-corruption reforms in Uzbekistan" signed in Paris on March 21, 2019 for the work of the State Tax Committee, "modern analytical methods to increase the efficiency of detection of corruption and other types of crimes, as well as deficiencies, including by analyzing large volumes of suspicious data introduction of computer software that helps to identify behaviors, risks of corruption, anomalous actions" is recommended².

Also, "Improvements in the field of fighting corruption in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia" published in 2020 based on the results of the research conducted in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan by the Eastern European and Central Asian countries anti-corruption network: The analytical information entitled "Achievements and problems in 2016-2019" contains the following information on the importance of analytical activities in the fight against corruption:

- in the above mentioned countries, although the scope of receiving information for the purpose of detecting corruption has been expanded by the law enforcement bodies, the potential of their analytical sources has not been fully used;
- Analytical activity in the Anti-corruption Commission and Agency of Tajikistan is not properly established;
- in countries such as Georgia, which has a high level of anti-corruption, the Councils engaged in this activity are provided with information by structures engaged in analytical activities, including the analytical department of the Ministry of Justice;

²https://www.oecd.org/corruption/acn/OECD-ACN-Uzbekistan-4th-Round_Monitoring-Report-2019-RUS.pdf

- it is recommended to provide more effective analytical and methodological support in anti-corruption activities;

- It was stated that the analytical work was carried out without relying on sources of information about corruption and on international cooperation.

The importance of combating corruption in customs authorities is related to its social danger. Today's customs is not only a means of supplementing the state budget, but it is one of the main bodies in ensuring its security. For this reason, in the spectrum of tasks facing the customs authorities in the 21st century, providing services in the conditions of globalization of trade and production, reducing the population living in poverty and ensuring economic growth, administrative management of the complex legal base, nature conservation, transnational terrorism and other we can see the fight against various types of crimes.

The scope of crimes related to the activities of customs authorities is expanding more and more. Because organized criminal groups are armed with advanced modern technologies that allow them to move from both sides of the border and deliver any goods to their desired destination. In a document prepared by the Geneva Center for Democratic Control on the control of armed forces, security threats are divided into 5 main groups:

1. "simple" type of crimes related to crossing the border (for example: stealing a motor vehicle from the territory of one country and disassembling it into spare parts in the territory of another country);

2. Technical violations (for example: non-availability of necessary documents related to crossing the border);

3. Transnational organized crime (includes crimes of various forms and forms: smuggling of motor vehicles, illegal trade in weapons, drug and other narcotics trade, human trafficking, illegal transportation of radioactive materials, etc.);

4. Terrorist threat;

5. Crimes undermining the integrity of the border control officer (corruption and abuse of power).

One of the main reasons for the emergence of these threats is the non-compliance of customs officials with the rules of professional ethics. Therefore, we can see that one of the main measures facing the customs authorities in the fight against corruption is the issue of developing professional ethics and information-analytical activity among the employees, which is directed towards the spirit of intolerance towards corruption.

Professional ethics is constantly recognized as one of the main tools in every speech made by the World Customs Organization on the issues of fighting against corruption. In particular, in Appendix 2 of the document "Customs in the 21st century" (No. SC0090E1a), adopted by the organization in 2008, entitled "Ensuring development and growth by ensuring security at the borders and simplifying trade procedures", in the context of globalization, with the control of the movement of goods and vehicles in front of the customs authorities means adopting a new related strategy that should take into account the following:

- a new level of cooperation with customs authorities and business entities;

- introduction of a higher level of administrative management of borders.

Today, a risk management system based on information-analytical activity has been created in the system of customs authorities. This system analyzes corruption risks according to the following indicators:

- cooperation between business groups and customs administrations;

- application of modern technologies and methods to the service;

- use of new means of gathering, managing and analyzing information on goods

- improvement of the legal framework;

- strengthening professional training and service discipline;

- institutional development;

- improvement of professional ethics.

During the conferences and meetings held in order to fight against corruption in customs, a number of documents of a recommendatory nature were adopted to all customs administrations. Examples of such documents include the Arusha Declaration, the 1994 Colombia Declaration, and the 1997 Lim Declaration. All of these documents state the need to improve information and analytical activities as one of the means of fighting corruption.

Information-analytical activities are viewed and used differently in different state and administrative bodies. Therefore, based on the activity of each law enforcement agency, their information-analytical activity

can be interpreted differently.

In particular, the information-analytical activity of the customs authorities is a practical research aimed at increasing the effectiveness of structural structures, and it is a meaningful understanding of the development of events, the study of its causes and development trends, the study of the current situation, as well as the evaluation of implemented and planned measures.

Information-analytical activity in the customs authorities is mainly carried out in the following directions:

- to assess the activities of customs authorities and determine their changes over time;
- forecasting the factors affecting the activities of customs authorities and assessing their level of influence;
- identification of additional resources that increase the efficiency of customs authorities.

Therefore, information-analytical activity is the main tool in performing the tasks assigned to the customs authorities. Information-analytical work directly related to the collection of information related to operations at all stages related to the implementation of customs control, their analysis and the development of forecasts are carried out. The importance of providing information in the information-analytical activity of the customs authorities is high, and the level of justification in making decisions related to the studied area should be high.

Types of information-analytical activities and sources of information in the customs office are as follows:

- customs statistics data for the analysis of foreign economic activity;
- accounting reports, customs value, currency control, customs payment reports for the analysis of the economic blog of the customs office;
- reports of operational search and administrative documents for the analysis of the task of law enforcement;
- work with personnel, organizational-structural activities, inspectorate control reports are used for the analysis of management activities.

Today, one of the important prospective directions of the information-analytical activity of the customs authorities is the assessment of the reliability and discipline of the participants of foreign economic activity (hereinafter referred to as FEA) - business entities. It should be noted that in this process, information-analytical activity is the most important area in the classification of business entities into risk groups according to the level of their propensity to commit law violations. Because classification into risk groups requires a continuous and comprehensive analysis of the activities of the FEA participant, the results of customs control and customs operations on the goods being transported, and the information on the documents submitted to the customs authorities. Based on the results of classification, according to the Risk Management AIS system, FEA participants are divided into low, medium and high risk groups, and the basis for different application of customs control is created.

It should be noted that the presence of corruption crimes committed by customs officials, the increasing number of customs violation cases, means that information and analytical activities are not effectively used in the fight against corruption in customs.

Based on their experience, international organizations and developed countries consider information-analytical activities as one of the modern tools for solving any problem, including the fight against corruption.

The reason for this is that the information-study activity includes such processes as studying the problem, determining the factors that cause it, making forecasts about possible situations in the future, and making proposals for solving the problem.

From this point of view, the stages of using information-analytical activities in the fight against corruption in customs are as follows:

- Stage 1: introduction of the information-analysis structure (hereinafter - IAS) that performs this task;
- Step 2: Staffing IAS with employees who actually have analytical skills or who have mastered this knowledge and skills;
- Step 3: providing IAS with all types of information related to the activities of customs authorities, including restricted information;
- Step 4: defining the exact limits of activities to be carried out by IAS;

Step 5: Use of analytical documents prepared by IAS in making managerial decisions.

It is worth noting that corruption is the main reason that reduces the effectiveness of IAS. In other words, allowing him to have a conflict of interests in gathering personnel, providing him with necessary information, as well as defining his duties, will have a negative impact on the quality of the final product - analytical document prepared by IAS.

When investigating corruption in customs by IAS, the following should be carried out:

- clearly defining the actions considered as corruption in the customs authorities;
- identification of internal and external factors causing corruption in customs;
- determination of levels of susceptibility to corruption in customs;
- division of all structural structures into groups based on the level of corruption;
- to define clearly the parties involved in corruption in customs;
- description of the portrait of a corrupt customs officer;
- to determine the possible areas of corruption in customs;
- conducting a statistical and factor analysis of cases of corruption in customs;
- development of proposals to eliminate corruption in customs;
- continuous study of trends in the development of corruption in customs;
- participation in the development of measures to combat corruption in customs, etc.

In conclusion, the activity of customs authorities is a body that ensures economic security and thereby participates in ensuring state security. Increasing the level of corruption in the customs creates threats such as the entry of contraband into the country: narcotics and psychotropic substances, weapons, substances for the production of nuclear weapons, failure to collect customs fees, and the import of goods of poor quality and dangerous to human health.

Due to the high latency level of corruption, combating it is a complex process, and modern trends require the application of new approaches and innovative solutions to this process.

One of the most effective means of combating corruption is the use of information-analytical activities. Because the information-analytical activity is not only limited the application of punishment for the detected crime of corruption or its detection, but also serves to eliminate the factors that cause it.

Based on the above, the following proposals are made for the use of information-analytical activities in the fight against corruption in customs:

1. Organization of an information-analytical structure to fight against corruption;
2. Determining the tasks of this structure and using its results in the development of measures.

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