

## **Address by the Minister of Mining Industry and Geology of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

Dear colleagues and partners,

The problem of corruption has recently been addressed on a global scale as a transnational crime and is widely discussed by international organizations.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, comprehensive reforms are being systematically implemented to prevent and combat corruption in all areas of state and public life, including eliminating corruption factors in industrial facilities.

In this direction, several significant legal documents have been adopted, such as the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption" (2017), as well as Presidential Decrees No. **PF-5729** of May 27, 2019, "On Measures to Further Improve the Anti-Corruption System in the Republic of Uzbekistan," and No. **PF-6013** of June 29, 2020. Furthermore, the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. **PQ-5177** of July 6, 2021, "On Additional Measures to Effectively Organize Anti-Corruption Activities," along with other legal and regulatory acts, contributed to the establishment of a legal framework in this area.

To implement the necessary anti-corruption measures, the Ministry of Mining and Geology has established an internal control department for combating corruption. Its main tasks are to identify the causes and conditions of corruption within the system, develop an effective mechanism for their elimination, conduct preventive educational work among the Ministry's employees, and address corruption risks.

In addition, the Ministry has developed and implemented over 10 internal regulatory documents and procedures aimed at combating corruption, including the "Anti-Corruption Policy," the "Code of Ethics," and the "Conflict of Interest Management Policy."

To prevent conflicts of interest in the fields of geology and mining, eliminate corruption factors in personnel selection, strengthen systematic preventive measures, and continuously enhance knowledge in this area, the international standard ISO 37001:2016 is being gradually introduced into practice.

It is essential to emphasize that the Ministry of Mining and Geology does not accept any form or manifestation of corruption and contributes to shaping societal intolerance toward corruption. The Ministry strictly complies with the law, adheres to the principles of fair competition, and places special emphasis on building a corporate culture based on integrity and transparency.

Our President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has stated: "**Intolerance of any form of corruption must become a part of our daily life. All state bodies, political parties, public organizations, mass media, and every citizen must be mobilized to fight this evil.**"

It is crucial for every leader and employee within the Ministry to recognize their responsibility for preventing and eliminating corruption-related incidents.

The Ministry of Mining and Geology, for its part, guarantees the conscientious fulfillment of its obligations, strict adherence to legislation, and consideration of anti-corruption requirements and ethical standards.

Taking this opportunity, I once again urge our colleagues and partners to comply with business standards and anti-corruption principles, report any potential violations of the law, and reach out to us with their concerns if suspicions arise.

**Sincerely,**

**B. Islamov,**

**Minister of Mining Industry and Geology**