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**NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTING AND COMBATING
CORRUPTION TOWARDS 2020**

**(Promulgated together with
Decision No./2008/QD-Ttg dated by the Prime Minister)**

I. BACKGROUND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE STRATEGY:

After more than 20 years of Doi Moi, our country has gained significant achievements in all areas. Results gained in renovating the political system, economic management mechanisms, public administration reform, judicial reform, perfecting the law system and international integration have created important preconditions for the attainment of socio-economic development targets and objectives, the development of a socialist rule-of-law State of the people, by the people and for the people. However, together with the achievements gained, the cause of renovating our country is being faced with multiple threats and corruption is one of those threats.

Deeply aware of the harmful effect of corruption, many resolutions passed by the party have put forward guidelines, policies and solutions for preventing and combating corruption, especially Resolution of the 3rd Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPV (the 10th Term) on “Strengthening the leadership of the Party over preventing and combating corruption and wastages” (resolution No. 04-NQ/TW dated 21 August 2006). The Law on Preventing and Combating Corruption has also been promulgated which is one of the important legal bases for preventing and combating corruption. Vietnam has also actively participated in international and regional initiatives to contribute to the common efforts of the international community in preventing and combating corruption. The implementation of guidelines, policies and solutions as mentioned above has brought about initial important results, winning the sympathy of the people and support of international friends.

Nevertheless, corruption is still taking place in a rampant, serious and complicated fashion in multiple areas, especially in such areas as administration and use of land, construction investments, equitization of SOE’s, management and use of funds, natural resources, mineral resources and State assets, leading to adverse effects in many ways, eroding the confidence of the people in the leadership by the Party and the management by the State, giving rise to potential conflicts of interest, social resistance and protest, and widening the gap between the rich and the poor. Corruption has become a major obstacle for the success of Doi Moi process and the fighting force of the Party, threatening the survival of the regime.

The main causes of the above-mentioned situation are the fact that the system of policies and laws has not been well synchronized or well aligned; the strengthening of agencies and organizations in the political system still fails to keep up with the development of the socio-economic life; the personnel of public officials and civil servants are still unprofessional, the ethics of a significant portion of public officials and civil servants is downgraded; the implementation of guidelines, policies and solutions for preventing and combating corruption that were put forward during the past few years still fail to meet the requirements and expectations, with poor effectiveness, especially there is the lack of a comprehensive long-term strategy or plan for preventing and combating corruption.

In the upcoming years, together with the process of restructuring the management mechanism, development of technical infrastructure, urbanization, restructuring of SOE's, development of the real property market, capital market, market for science and technology, labor market, etc., new conditions will emerge that make corruption become more and more sophisticated and complicated. On the other hand, the increasingly deepened international integration will also facilitate cases of corruption on a larger scale, more difficult to detect and to deal with due to participation and involvement of foreign individuals and organizations.

Therefore, it is necessary to developed and to implement a “National strategy for preventing and combating corruption towards 2020”, contributing to successful implementation of those tasks and duties identified in the “Strategy for Socio-economic Development of Vietnam towards 2020”, the “Vision 2020”. The national Strategy for Preventing and Combating Corruption Towards 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy) identifies basic and long-term goals as well as specific objectives for each period, putting forward comprehensive solutions, well synchronized and aligned with a specific action plan with suitable and appropriate roadmap and steps to take. This Strategy also identifies the responsibilities of agencies and organizations in the political system and in the society in organizing for the implementation thereof in order to ensure the feasibility and effectiveness of the Strategy.

II. VIEWPOINTS, OBJECTIVES:

1. Viewpoints:

- 1.1 Preventing and combating corruption is an important task which is both urgent and long-term, cutting through the process of socio-economic development and the building of a socialist rule-of-law State in the new period of time.
- 1.2 Preventing and combating corruption is the responsibility of the entire political system, under the leadership by the Party, bringing into full play the synergetic strength of branches, sectors, levels, promoting the role of the society, mass organizations and the general public.
- 1.3 It is necessary and important to utilize all the solutions for preventing and combating corruption; both actively and proactively preventing corruption and resolutely detecting and dealing with corruption with firm steps to take, focused efforts to make, in which preventing corruption is of a fundamental and long-term

character; linking preventing and combating corruption with practicing thriftiness and savings, combating red-tape and wastages.

- 1.4 It is necessary to establish full-time specialized task forces which are strong enough to operate as the core forces in preventing, detecting and dealing with corruption in the direction of specialization with appropriate means, instruments and skills, ensuring both in-depth specialization and broad coverage of areas and aspects of socio-economic life.
- 1.5 It is important to place the process of preventing and combating corruption in the context of integration, proactively cooperate effectively with countries and international organizations; paying due attention to documenting practical experiences and critical learning of experiences of other countries with regard to preventing and combating corruption.

2. Objectives:

2.1 Overall objective:

To prevent, to roll back step by step, to gradually get rid of opportunities and conditions that give rise to corruption, to contribute to the development of a clean strong State machinery and an ethical and incorruptible personnel of public officials and civil servants, to make healthy social relationships through synchronized implementation of solutions for preventing, detecting and dealing with corruption.

2.2 Specific objectives:

2.2.1 To maximally minimize conditions and opportunities that give rise to corruption in policy-making, development and enforcement of laws, especially in the process of issuing and organizing for the implementation of legal and regulatory documents.

2.2.2 To consolidate and strengthen controls of the exercise of State powers, to prevent abuse of positions, powers and authority for vested interests on the basis of building an effective and transparent civil service geared towards serving the people and society, with a personnel of public officials and civil servants who are honest, motivated, devoted, transparent, professional and paid with decent salaries; standards for civil service ethics and code of conduct will strengthened and developed.

2.2.3 To create an equal, fair and transparent environment for business to attract domestic and foreign investments, contributing to economic growth; to uphold a sense of complying with laws of enterprises; to eliminate step by step bribery from relationships between enterprises and State agencies and in trading and commercial transactions.

2.2.4 To promote and uphold a sense of responsibility, professionalism and operational effectiveness of law-enforcing agencies, units and agencies specialized in preventing and combating corruption.

To continue to perfect policies for dealing with corruption, especially criminal policies and criminal procedural policies; to establish an corruption M&E system.

2.2.5 To enhance awareness of the society of corruption, guidelines and policies of the Party, the law of the State regarding preventing and combating corruption; to step up proactive participation of civil society organizations and mass organizations, the mass media and all citizens in preventing and combating corruption efforts.

III. GROUPS OF SOLUTIONS:

1. To strengthen openness and transparency in the performance of official functions and duties, to minimize conditions and opportunities that give rise to corruption in policy-making, development and enforcement of laws.

1.1 To implement seriously the rulings provided for by the Law on Preventing and Combating Corruption on openness and transparency in the operation of agencies and organizations in all sectors and areas and at all levels.

1.2 To make transparent the process of formulating, submitting and issuing policies and laws; the process of preparing, submitting and issuing decisions, administrative documents closely linked with reforming administrative procedures.

1.3 To make open and transparent decisions on investigations, prosecutions, court trials and enforcement of court sentences/verdicts.

1.4 To conduct overall review and revision of the law on State secrets in the direction of narrowing down the scope of State secrets to necessary levels.

1.5 To establish and to implement mechanisms to ensure the right to information access of citizens regarding the operation of agencies, organizations and units; to perfect and to organize for the implementation of the regulation of the spokesperson of State agencies; to develop and to promulgate the Law on Information Access; to establish and to take punitive measures against those people that violate the right to information access of citizens.

2. To control the exercise of State powers; to perfect the civil service, and to improve the quality of the execution of official functions and duties.

2.1 To implement well-defined/clarified delegation and decentralization; to define clearly functions, duties, powers of each level of administration, and to correct and to overcome overlapping and a situation of “no man’s land” in managerial operations. To clarify responsibilities and duties for each post/position, especially the responsibility of the heads of agencies, organizations and units, and based on the performance of such responsibilities and duties to evaluate public officials and civil servants.

To strengthen inspections and examinations of the implementation of rules and regulations of civil service, especially the performance of public functions and duties in those positions and posts that directly handle requests from citizens, organizations and enterprises.

2.2 To perfect and to control closely the implementation of rules and regulations on recruitment, instatement, appointment, reappointment and transfer in order to improve the quality of the personnel of public officials and civil servants.

2.3 To incorporate the content of preventing and combating corruption into the training programs for public officials and civil servants with a view to educate and to inculcate integrity, to enhance awareness and a sense of responsibility for the personnel of public officials and civil servants with regard to preventing, detecting and dealing with corruption.

2.4 To reform fundamentally the system of salaries and allowances to ensure that public officials and civil servants have their income levels equivalent to moderately good levels of income of the society; to implement appropriate salary policies in some particular areas.

2.5 To publicize entitlements, cost norms, standards and to publicize the implementation of entitlements cost norms and standards for the use of public assets by public officials and civil servants, first and foremost by the heads of agencies, organizations and units.

To revise rules and regulations on management and use of official houses; to deal strictly with violations and breaches of rules and regulations on management and use of official houses.

2.6 To revise and to issue additional rules and regulations on making transparent assets and incomes in the direction of broadening the scope of target coverage, step by step to publicize and to establish rules on accountability to provide explanations on the origin of assets and incomes; to make payments via bank accounts for all State budget expenditure items for public officials and civil servants.

2.7 To continue to perfect and to implement mechanisms for dismissal, removal, resignation, temporary suspension of the post of the heads for letting corruption take place in agencies, organizations and units that are under their jurisdiction and in their charge.

2.8 To step up the formulation and publicization of, and to strengthen supervision of the implementation of, codes of conduct, civil service ethics, professional ethics of public officials and civil servants in accordance with laws.

3. To perfect the economic management mechanism, to build an equal fair and transparent environment for business.

3.1 To perfect the economic management mechanism to ensure transparency, equality and competition amongst enterprises falling all economic categories.

To implement economic policies to enterprises in a transparent and consistent fashion.

3.2 To establish and to perfect step by step mechanisms whereby enterprises can enter in their accounts accurately and in good faith those economic transactions incurred in their business and production activities and to reflect them concurrently in the database of the tax authorities; to implement rules and regulations on periodical and compulsory audits with all types of enterprises.

3.3 To create favorable conditions for business associations and trade associations to participate in formulation of policies and development of laws, and in submitting proposals on revisions and amendments to correct those gaps or loopholes in mechanisms and policies that may give rise to corruption.

To deal strictly with behaviors of bribery in business and production activities, in participation in biddings and auctions or fraudulent commercial practices; to publicize the names of those agencies, organizations and individuals that commit wrongdoings.

3.4 To continue to establish and to perfect mechanisms for management and use of public resources to ensure openness and transparency; to create regional centers for biddings to conduct concentrated public procurements; to implement the mechanisms for open auctions when selling, liquidating, handing over and leasing public assets.

3.5 To perfect rules and regulations on land taking-back, land rentals, land allocations, conversion of land use purposes, compensation and support to resettlement upon site clearance in accordance with the principle of ensuring the interests of land users whose land is taken back, the interests of investors and the interest of the State; to ensure openness and to strictly deal with wrongdoings in management and use of land.

3.6 To conduct general reviews, to perfect the laws on divestiture and equitization of SOE's, attaching special importance to determination of the value of enterprises' assets and handling public assets in the process of equitization.

3.7 To perfect the laws on capital market, real property market, and labor market; to conduct research work for the issuance of rules and regulations on compulsory registration of real properties and property tax; to implement registration of personal income tax and to make payments via bank accounts; to develop the Law on Anti-Money Laundering.

4. To improve and enhance effectiveness and efficiency in the performance of inspections, examinations, supervisions, audits, investigations, prosecutions, and court trials with regard to detecting and dealing with corruption.

4.1 To conduct research work for the revision of the law on inspection in the direction of clarifying functions, duties and powers of State inspectorates, to clearly delineate inspections in accordance with administrative levels and sector-based inspections. Inspectorates in accordance with administrative levels to vigorously be converted into those performing the function of administrative supervision, and to strengthen inspections of the performance of official functions and duties, the implementation of the Law on Preventing and Combating Corruption; to conduct research work for merging the organization and operation of inspectorates into the performance of supervision by the Party.

Sector-based inspectorates will focus on inspecting and examining the compliance with laws by all organizations and individuals; strictly deal with administrative breaches, to ensure the maintenance of order, discipline and the law in all areas of socio-economic life.

To strengthen independence and self-responsibility of inspectorates.

4.2 To revise and to perfect the law system with regard to auditing with a view to define clearly the scope of operation between the State audits and financial inspections, to overcome overlapping in the performance of inspections and audits. To perfect Vietnam's standard system of audits in accordance with international practices; to enhance and to improve the quality and effectiveness in the performance of audits; to promote the responsibility of audit organizations and auditors in terms of accuracy and objectivity of audit reports.

4.3 To conduct research work for the revision of laws in the direction of increasing pecuniary penalties; exemption of criminal liability or reduction of penalties for those subjects that have committed corrupt practices but proactively reported them and corrected consequences; to finalize the regulation on handling assets gained as a result of corruption; to issue additional rules and regulations on prevention of dispersing and hiding, ensuring recovery and seizure/ confiscation of those assets gained as a result of corruption.

4.4 To step up training and to improve professional/ technical knowledge and skills in preventing and combating corruption, political quality and professional ethics for public officials and civil servants charged with the performance of inspections, examinations, audits, investigations, prosecutions and trials.

4.5 To conduct research work for the development of appropriate policies of entitlements and remuneration, and at the same time to strengthen responsibility regimes and to deal strictly with corruption practices of public officials and civil servants in agencies and units specialized in combating corruption.

4.6 To continue to consolidate and to strengthen the organization and operation of units specialized in combating corruption; to conduct research work for the creation of a national anti-corruption agency.

4.7 To perfect the mechanisms for coordination and collaboration amongst agencies and units specialized in combating corruption with regard to receiving and processing information and denunciations on corruption, to detect and to deal with corruption practices; to strengthen modern technical/ professional equipment and devices, to conduct research on for the application of special investigating measures in order to improve effectiveness in detecting corruption practices.

5. To enhance awareness and to promote the role of the entire society in preventing and combating corruption.

5.1 To step and to diversify forms of advocacy and propagandization to enhance awareness of the general public with regard to manifestations and harmful effects of corruption and the responsibility of the entire society in preventing and combating corruption; to create favorable conditions for the people to proactively participate in preventing and combating corruption.

5.2 To uphold the role of the Fatherland Front and member organizations of the Fatherland Front, social organizations, socio-professional organizations in preventing and combating corruption.

5.3 To promote the role of the press in preventing and combating corruption; to ensure provision of timely and accurate information on corruption cases to press agencies; to establish codes of conduct and professional ethics and to provide training in integrity for correspondents and editors.

5.4 To promote the role of enterprises, business associations, and professional associations in preventing and combating corruption through nurturing and implementing a healthy business culture free of corruption; to coordinate and to collaborate with State competent agencies to prevent and to detect on a timely basis those harassments and bribery soliciting by public officials and civil servants.

5.5 To continue to improve mechanisms for protecting and praising whistle-blowers who denunciate and detect corruption practices and behaviors; to honor, to commend and to reward those organizations and individuals that have achieved excellence in preventing and combating corruption; to deal strictly with cases of abusing the right to denunciations for the purposes of slandering and internally disturbing whereby adversely affecting political security, social order and safety.

IV. ROADMAP AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. Roadmap for the implementation

The national strategy for preventing and combating corruption towards 2020 will be implemented in three phases as follows:

1.1 Phase 1 (from now to 2011):

Within the scope of responsibilities provided for by law, the Government, relevant agencies and organizations will proactively incorporate the content of the Strategy into their respective action programs and work plans, and organize for the synchronous implementation of those solutions mentioned in the Strategy.

In this phase, it is necessary to implement synchronously solutions whereby efforts will be focused on strengthening the capacity to detect and to deal with corruption practices and behaviors.

To conduct preliminary reviews of the implementation of phase 1 of the Strategy in the end of 2011.

1.2 Phase 2 (2011-2016):

Bringing into full play those results gained, efforts will be focused on performance of those duties and tasks for the phase of 2011-2016 identified as a result of preliminary reviews of phase 1 and requirements of the Central Committee of the Party, the national Assembly and the Government of the new term.

In this phase, efforts will be focused on carrying out those solutions for perfecting the civil service rules and regulations, improving the quality of the performance of official functions and duties, perfecting economic management mechanisms, building an equal and healthy environment for business.

General reviews of the 10 years of implementing the Law on Preventing and Combating Corruption will be conducted to provide a basis for revision of this Law to be appropriate with the new situation.

Preliminary reviews of the implementation of the Strategy towards 2016 will be conducted; new solutions will be added to be in compliance with development requirements.

1.3 Phase 3 (2016-2020):

Bringing into full play those results gained, efforts will be focused on performance of those duties and tasks for the phase of 2016-2020 identified as a result of preliminary reviews of phase 2 and requirements of the Central Committee of the Party, the national Assembly and the Government.

In this phase it is necessary to continue undertaking well those solutions that have been started in the previous phases, to start up the remaining solutions, ensuring successful attainment of the goals and targets set forth in the Strategy.

General reviews of the implementation of the Strategy will be conducted in 2020.

2. Responsibility for the implementation

The Government and the Central Steering Committee for Preventing and Combating Corruption will take the lead responsibility for the implementation and for guiding Ministries, sectors, local governments, relevant agencies and organizations, within the scope of their given functions and responsibilities, in organizing for the implementation of the national Strategy for Preventing and Combating Corruption Towards 2020.

2.1 Guiding and instructing Ministries, sectors, People's Committees of provinces and centrally-administered cities in their formulation and issuance of specific plans for the performance of those duties and tasks identified in the Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy.

2.2 Assigning the Government Inspectorate the lead responsibility, in conjunction with the Office of the National Steering Committee for Preventing and Combating Corruption, in assisting the Government and the Central Committee for Preventing and Combating Corruption to supervise, to follow up and to examine the implementation of this Strategy.

2.3 Assigning the Ministry of Justice the lead responsibility, in coordination with relevant Ministries and sectors, in reviewing the system of laws, resolutions and ordinances for the Government to submit to the National Assembly, the Standing

Committee of the National Assembly proposals for revision additional issuance of such legal documents with regard to implementing the Strategy.

2.4 Assigning Government agencies the responsibility for coordination and collaboration with other agencies and organizations to undertake those contents related to their given scope of jurisdiction which is identified in the Strategy.

2.5 Requesting levels of executive committees of the Party to pay due attention to leadership, supervision and examination of the implementation of the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Corruption Towards 2020.

3. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy

3.1 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the implementation of solutions identified in the Strategy and the Action Plan according to periodical statistics undertaken on a quarterly and annual basis and at the end of each phase of implementation.

3.2 Conducting surveys and investigations of the corruption situation and the results gained in the implementation of the Strategy; conducting surveys, measurement and evaluation of negative and adverse impacts exerted by corruption on socio-economic development.

3.3 Establishing mechanisms for publicizing the results of evaluation of the current status of corruption and results gained in the implementation of the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Corruption.

Within the given functions, responsibilities and powers, the Government Inspectorate and the Office of the Central Committee for Preventing and Combating Corruption will proactively coordinate and collaborate with relevant agencies and organizations to assist the Government and the Central Committee for Preventing and Combating Corruption in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Strategy.

The Government requests Ministries, sectors, local governments, business associations, professional associations and enterprises to seriously implement the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Corruption Towards 2020; levels of leaders of the Party, the State, the National Assembly, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuracy, the State Audit of Vietnam, the Fatherland Front of Vietnam and its member organizations, socio-professional associations, press agencies and the entire people to participate in implementation, supervision and monitoring the implementation of this Strategy.

**For and on behalf of the Government
The Prime Minister**

Nguyen Tan Dzung