



## The Anti-Corruption Trilogy: Uniting Political Will, Cultural Heritage, and Data Quality

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There is a prevalent belief in Egyptian society that combating corruption is the sole responsibility of strong oversight agencies, led by the Administrative Control Authority. These agencies investigate and disclose corruption crimes committed by state employees during the performance of their duties, as well as crimes committed by non-workers that compromise the integrity of their performance, duties, or public service. Such actions are preceded by legal measures taken by judicial bodies to collect evidence and identify the crime, after which judicial procedures are initiated leading to the punishment of the perpetrators. Until recently, this traditional mental image remained prevalent in Egyptian society. There was no direct contact between citizens and the Administrative Control Authority, nor between the Authority and employees of the state's administrative apparatus, except for the application of legal rules regarding violations and incidents of administrative corruption.

### Preventing Corruption: Understanding the Concept of Precaution and Prevention

The use of the term prevention of corruption began in the early twentieth century in 1906 with the issuance of the Anti-Corruption Act by the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at that time. Many laws related to the prevention of corruption in various countries such as Bangladesh in 1947 and India in 1988 followed the lead. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) issued in 2003 is the legally binding global instrument to combat corruption, and its mandatory approach makes it a distinct tool to confront the most dangerous phenomenon in the world, which is corruption. The preamble of the convention is a clear message that the international community is determined to prevent and curb corruption and warns the corrupt that betrayal of public trust will not be tolerated, while emphasizing the importance of basic values such as honesty, respect, rule of law, accountability, transparency, and the promotion of development to make the world a better place for all.

What is meant by preventing corruption is to reduce the commission of legally criminal acts that constitute incidents of corruption in addition to corrupt practices through the application of anti-corruption strategies that include a number of policies, measures and mechanisms that ensure that it is besieged and minimized to the maximum extent possible. However, we have to confess that it is not possible to completely prevent corruption in any country, regardless of the size and method of addressing corruption, but it is not appropriate to give up the idea and term (prevention of corruption) so that the best possible and effective results can be achieved. Moreover, preventing corruption also includes taking appropriate measures to ensure that corrupt acts do not mutate and revert to reappearing by circumventing the measures taken to prevent corruption or taking new forms that were not previously known.

### Prevention of corruption with data quality

The question now is "is it possible to rely on information and data and their quality to prevent corruption?" The answer is definitely yes... If transparency is one of the pillars of combating corruption and an element of governance, then the main component of activating "transparency" is the use of high-quality data and information. Indeed, the availability of "hard and rigid" information that is not organized or audited is considered one of the main challenges that impedes the efficiency of planning and making sound decisions. Instead of considering data in this case as a means to solve work problems and a basis for achieving goals, it turns into a source of gaps that hinders and distorts the work environment.

On the contrary, if data is organized, audited, and up to the required level of quality, it helps smooth performance in implementing the mechanisms required to achieve the goals. One of the most important

features of accurate and well-organized databases is that it plays a crucial role in restoring citizen confidence, especially from the most vulnerable social groups, who depend on social support systems in terms of subsidy or cash. Moreover, well-organized databases also help in economic housing systems and other services in relation to social care, where data form a basis for determining the extent of eligibility or exclusion of beneficiaries from different social systems through available channels that do not allow discrimination through nepotism or mediation because honest and factual data generates credibility between the government and its citizens, not only within the limits of the targeted social groups, but also the groups of society as a whole.



Holding a meeting with the youth at the Ministry of Youth and Sports' booth during the the participation of the Administrative Control Authority in support of the principle of interaction between state institutions to combat corruption."

**The National Anti-Corruption Academy, under the supervision of the Administrative Control Authority, has played an increasingly prominent role in promoting transparency and integrity. One notable example of this is the Authority's active participation in the Cairo International Book sessions. This marks the 2023-Fair for the 2022 Authority's first participation in this significant cultural event in the Arab region, where it disseminated cultural and educational values and publications that support the principles of transparency, integrity, and good governance**



The Enthusiastic Attendance of the Audience and Youth Entities at the Book Fair in the Seminar by the Administrative Control Authority entitled (Distinguished Individuals Participate)

### The role of education and awareness in preventing corruption

Political will is a fundamental pillar on which anti-corruption measures in various countries are based. It also strongly supports the effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies. The capabilities of these agencies are commensurate and growing steadily with the political will that empowers them to confront corruption efficiently and effectively. Political will can endow them with the power that supports their independence without the presence of obstacles or considerations that limit these capabilities. In addition to the political will, there should be real institutional will that bears the responsibility for implementing strategies in different sectors, whose top priority is to combat corruption, along with a society that is aware of the dangers of corruption and is able to confront it.

In this respect, the role of education and awareness in preventing and preventing corruption is clear, as raising awareness for all institutional and societal parties constitutes a direct and profound impact on knowing the dangers of corruption, rejecting it altogether, so that the culture of "accepting corruption", whether big or small, turns into a culture of "resisting corruption".

Societal culture also constitutes the firm and conscious backing of the political will to support its anti-corruption decisions and measures. However, reaching advanced stages of spreading this culture takes longer than the rest of the procedures, but it is characterized by stability and profundity of impact.

### The educational and enlightening role of the National Anti-Corruption Academy

Since its inception, the National Anti-Corruption Academy has established a clear role in the field of training and providing skills in the field of combating corruption, as well as spreading awareness among all trainees of the Academy from all parties and groups, including members and employees of the Administrative Control Authority, oversight agencies, law enforcement agencies, judicial cadres, employees of the state's administrative apparatus and specialized national councils. Training also includes companies from different affiliations, students of public and private universities, civil work institutions, cadres of youth entities, women and those who are concerned in different fields.

Furthermore, the academy has also contributed in the implementation and participation in various awareness activities in coordination with local, regional and international partners, including simulations to hold specialized and related conferences, such as the conference of the ninth session of the states parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP 9) in the governorates of Cairo and Aswan and the Climate Change Conference (COP 27) with the participation of university youth. In addition, the academy has participated in several scientific and cultural conferences and events locally, regionally and internationally to present the Egyptian experience and the efforts made in implementing the national anti-corruption strategy in its three versions since 2014, which is scheduled to be completed in 2030.

The enlightening role has grown in parallel with the role of

**Political will is a crucial pillar upon which anti-corruption measures in various countries are built. It plays a significant role in bolstering the effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies, as their capabilities are directly proportional to the political will that empowers them to confront corruption efficiently and effectively. As political will grows steadily stronger, so do the capabilities of these agencies, ensuring that they are able to effectively combat corruption in all its forms.**

direct confrontation with corruption. Perhaps the most prominent example of the growing enlightening role of the Administrative Control Authority through the National Anti-Corruption Academy is the active participation in one of the most important international cultural events in the Arab region, which is the Cairo International Book Fair in its sessions No. 53 and 54 in the years 2022-2023. The Authority participated for the first time to disseminate values and supportive cultural and awareness publications. The principles of transparency, integrity and the values of governance applications were demonstrated among the visitors of the book fair who were mostly Egyptian citizens and families. It is remarkable that the number of attendees for the authority's pavilion reached 35 thousand visitors, along with many foreign students, representatives of embassies, organizations and regional and international public figures to learn about the efforts of the Egyptian government in implementing the national strategy to combat corruption. During the two events, four cultural seminars were carried out, starting with a specialized cultural seminar on the role and activity of the Authority. The idea developed with the fourth seminar which was distinguished by the participation of a number of young people who are brilliant in their fields. For example, it included a business pioneer, a scientist in the field of data and information, and one of our Olympic athletes under the title "The Distinguished Participate". All these activities have taken place amid wide presence of the book fair audience and youth entities who are interested in public affairs and those who are involved in national concerns. Such success demonstrates the extent of the Authority's deep belief in the influential cultural role in confronting corruption.

### Drawing upon cultural heritage and legacy

The cultural legacy of Egyptian civilization, with its roots in the renunciation of discrimination and bias, provides the greatest support for the culture of confronting corruption in Egyptian society. Egypt is renowned as the birthplace of monotheistic religions and the cultural leader in the region, with a deep-rooted cultural repository that dates back to the Fourth Dynasty of Egypt and the eloquent farmer "Khun Anbu," who spoke out against abuse of power and corruption. This heritage can be utilized to invoke and support beliefs and values that combat corruption, which is our best hope and is now being achieved on the ground with your support and will.