5

SYNERGY OF LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INSTITUTIONS IN NEUTRALIZING A REAL THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Anti-corruption legislation and the entities that implement it, in particular due to the possibility of coercion, are state-centric. Moreover, the existential center of the institutional policy for ensuring integrity is the nation, whose members are united by a common goal and ways to achieve it, which not only brings material well-being, but also is consistent with universal human legal values. For example, nations develop as a result of ensuring human life, human inviolability, equality of people, maximum development of children, rights of socially vulnerable people, but not vice versa. Herewith, individuals with a high degree of materialism are more selforiented, focused more on money, success, influence, and status, and less bothered by others. Self-esteem is related in a negative manner to materialism. Self-esteem helps individuals respond to self-esteem pressures by emphasizing their ability to control and be more independent. Individuals with low self-esteem, by comparison, usually use money to 'cover up' for their poor self-esteem and to require reputation and many possessions to identify themselves (Norziaton 2022, p. 316).

The national anti-corruption policy reaches the international level to the extent that it surpasses other national models for combating corruption in terms of territory and population. The essence of this policy is a combination of relevant national models. International efforts to establish good human virtues in legal relations become ideal when they absorb the best of effective anti-corruption rules and practices of certain nations. As a result, international and supranational anti-corruption law represents a system of appropriate thematic profile national legal standards agreed upon by nations. Similarly, the nation internal anti-corruption legislation arises due to the legal efforts of its specific members, who make up

the existential center of the nation's legal system and express integrity in law both in thought and in legal reality.

The biggest variable in determining levels of corruption and the success of anti-corruption campaigns is the strength of the 'national corruption system' (NCS) – which is, in many states, better organised, better resourced and more effective than the 'National integrity systems' (NIS) (Sampford 2009, p. 573). The key components of anti-corruption policy at any social level require taking into account patterns in all spheres of social relations. Accordingly, the conclusions on countering illegal distortions of these laws are interdisciplinary, which are reflected in the norms of various legislation branches. In this regard, the influences of national and international legal spaces in matters of institutional elimination of their distortion threats are not only mutually determining, but also complex and synergistic. At the beginning, anti-corruption components of legislative requirements were formed in the national legal space. Then, on their basis, norms common to all nations were created. In the future, it was international anti-corruption law that began to influence the formation of anti-corruption policies separate nations. The asynchrony of the nation's development led to the coincidence of the highly developed countries anti-corruption law with the newly created international anti-corruption law, which was subsequently borrowed by nations that had not yet invented and/or insufficiently developed their own anti-corruption legislation.

5.1. Formation of the national anti-corruption infrastructure resilience for strengthening national security

Rulers' discretionary practices ultimately impose hidden costs on the enforcement of laws and contracts. When personal rulers are preoccupied with exercising their discretion to pursue private gains, front-line bureaucrats are not motivated to enforce laws and contracts because they believe that the state is led by a ruler who lacks sufficient interest in social welfare. When national

leaders or higher-level government officials engage in massive corruption, government jobs attract dishonest and corruptible individuals (Hong 2023, p. 373). Rules for the dominance of human virtues in legal relations are formed at the national level. These rules are successful only when scientists managed to formulate knowledge that corresponds to reality, and then this knowledge is reflected without distortions both in anti-corruption legislation and in the practices of its application. The legal reality of these two spheres is such that distortions become their immanent feature. The degree of a nation's freedom from corruption correlates with minimal indicators of such distortions.

It is futile to expect a decrease in corruption at the international level, since even the most corruption-free nation brings residual corruption into its interactions with other nations. These balances are added and/or multiplied. Together, this residual energy constitutes a powerful force that is at best resisted by the nation on which this energy is directed, and at worst not resisted at all. For example, the public authorities of a corrupt nation receive bribes, opportunities to keep and multiply money stolen from their own nation by entrepreneurs and/or public authorities of corruption-free countries. In this confrontation, the imbalance is not in favor of any certain nation. It is a trap for less developed nations seeking to rid themselves of corruption. Something like their attempts to catch up with economic, technological, military backwardness. Their anti-corruption policy remains permanently catching up. The example of the Republic of Singapore proves that freedom from corruption is achievable, but under the conditions of an anti-corruption policy ahead of all other countries, where the key components are responsibility for the consequences of one's actions, maximum concentration and absolutely balanced use of available resources, and the like.

A corrupt country feels internal opposition to neutralizing corruption. Public officials who are involved in corrupt profit schemes generated by the entrepreneurs are resisting. For instance, when companies excessively prioritize the value of political-business relationships, the negative implications

of political connections gradually come to the forefront, namely: 1) the need to bear certain rent-seeking costs, which to some extent deplete their available capital; 2) greater susceptibility to the impact of political scandals and corruption factors compared to ordinary companies, thus exerting a negative influence on their stock prices; 3) a greater tendency to cater to the social demands of the government and politicians, which can lead to a misallocation of resources (Xu 2024, p. 7).

The tendency of illegal enrichment of public officials is also fueled by the unenviable result of the parliament's law-making work in the form of lame, backward and/or legislation with a distorted content of law; low level of public understanding of both the principle of equality in legal relations and their own roles in decision-making, as well as claims for undeserved benefits, etc. Such countries are practically doomed to remain corrupt until they become as powerful as corruption-free countries. Here, power is manifested in managerial, legislative, judicial and other law-enforcement capabilities to achieve economic prosperity and other goals at the expense of available resources in the interests of all who are involved in this to the best of their ability. The focus of attention on the individual's interests, undeserved benefits for people, and the like become other signs of a nation whose anti-corruption policy is far from achieving the declared standards of integrity in economic and other legal relations.

The above confirms the fact that, apart from the Republic of Singapore, no country that has major problems with corruption, after the Second World War or since the 90s of the 20th century did not belong to the top twenty countries in terms of corruption freedom. Accordingly, countries from this top twenty did not move to lower levels. It is known that a correlation is observed here with the innovative capacity of countries, which determines their economic relations success, in particular the EU, AUKUS (trilateral security partnership), G7, G20. For instance, G20 countries should recognize the important but complex interlinkages between enforcement, trust in government and the ease of compliance in boosting the willingness of individuals and businesses to voluntarily

pay tax. These countries should support integrity in companies by ensuring the relevant legislation is in place to enable effective corporate compliance programs, including on anti-corruption measures and other responsible business conduct measures, as well as on responsible corporate political engagement and lobbying; should enforce stringent transparency requirements on waste management and pollution control processes to ensure accuracy and compliance with environmental standards (G20 2024, p. 8, 10, 17). The interconnections of rights and freedoms with integrity and innovation can be seen in the table below.

The countries in all three rankings for all years are almost completely identical. They only change places in the top twenty as a result of competition between them both in the issues of the human rights supremacy and in the matters of the effective mechanisms for obtaining the scientifically based knowledge and integrity. For instance, some EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Greece, Ireland and Luxembourg, to name a few) swiftly restricting access to beneficial ownership information, other nations, like Latvia, Estonia and France, for example, have taken a somewhat more pragmatic approach. Governments must consider the judgement by the Court of Justice for the European Union (CJEU) handed down on 22 November 2022. In this decision, the following conclusions of the court are noteworthy, namely: 1) it is unlawful for EU Member States to make information on beneficial owners within registers accessible "in all cases to any member of the general public"; 2) doing so would represent a "serious interference with the fundamental rights to respect for private life and to the protection of personal data" which "is neither limited to what is strictly necessary nor proportionate to the objective pursued" (CJEU 2022). The judgement effectively invalidates amendments to the Council Directive 2018/843EU (the 5th AML Directive) that guaranteed full transparency of beneficial ownership information (Gilmour 2024, p. 770).

The patterns basis shown in the table is that public power ensures the disclosure of human freedom. The public authorities themselves in each of these countries are devoid of signs of tyranny, dictatorship,

Table 5.1. Correlations of the rule of law, innovation and corruption indicators for the period 1995–2023 in national anti-corruption models

#	Corruption perceptions index – CPI		Global innovation index – GII		Rule of law index – RLI	
	1995	2023	2007	2023	2015	2023
1.	New Zealand	Denmark	USA	Switzerland	Denmark	Denmark
2.	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Sweden	Norway	Norway
3.	Singapore	New Zealand	United Kingdom	USA	Sweden	Finland
4.	Finland	Norway	Japan	United Kingdom	Finland	Sweden
5.	Canada	Singapore	France	Singapore	Netherlands	Germany
6.	Sweden	Sweden	Switzerland	Finland	New Zealand	Luxembourg
7.	Australia	Switzerland	Singapore	Netherlands	Austria	Netherlands
8.	Switzerland	Netherlands	Canada	Germany	Germany	New Zealand
9.	Netherlands	Germany	Netherlands	Denmark	Singapore	Estonia
10.	Norway	Luxembourg	Hong Kong	Republic of Korea	Australia	Ireland
11.	Ireland	Ireland	Denmark	France	Republic of Korea	Austria
12.	United Kingdom	Canada	Sweden	China	United Kingdom	Canada
13.	Germany	Estonia	Finland	Japan	Japan	Australia
14.	Chile	Australia	UAE	Israel	Canada	Japan
15.	USA	Hong Kong	Belgium	Canada	Estonia	United Kingdom
16.	Austria	Belgium	Luxembourg	Estonia	Belgium	Belgium
17.	Hong Kong	Japan	Australia	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Singapore
18.	France	Uruguay	Israel	Austria	France	Lithuania
19.	Belgium	Iceland	South Korea	Norway	USA	Republic of Korea
20.	Japan	Austria, France, Seychelles, United Kingdom	Iceland	Iceland	Czech Republic	Czech Republic

and obsession with tenure. The release of relatively the best people energies is observed in the positions of the president of the country, members of parliament and other elected public positions, where the elected representatives retain the credit of trust and the mandate for the nation development, municipal entities, etc. For instance, Australia's anti-corruption successes, including the activity results of Crime and Corruption Commission as an independent statutory body to combat and reduce the incidence of major crime and corruption in the public sector in Queensland since 1989 is exemplary (CCC 2024).

The phenomenon of China in the innovation rating of 2023 is outside the determinant of anthropometric legislation, since its one-party political system, capital penalty in the form of criminal punishment, planned economy with significant economic stratification of the population, "political purges, personalistic rule, emerging neo-totalitarianism" (Kuo 2023, p. 243) and similar features have nothing to do with revealing the constructive potential of human freedom. This position is rather a consequence of favorable conditions for the high technologies transfer from countries with anthropomorphic legal regimes, on which China continues to layer new knowledge acquired with its own resources. In addition, as the CPI shows, China still has major problems with corruption. "Extravagant position-related consumption' accounted for 2.79% of total public expenditure in 2012 and the ratio was even greater in Beijing 7.26%. "Grey consumption", which is defined as illegal personal consumption using public funds or appropriating public or business resources accounted for 4% of China's GDP in the period from 2004 to 2012, and that the estimate may be between 2% and 4% higher. Furthermore, these figures may have been systematically underestimated following the launch of Xi's anti-corruption campaign in order to conceal the use of public funds for illegal purposes and avoid government audits. It is reasonable to expect that domestic consumption of luxury goods would be suppressed as a result of Xi's ongoing anti-corruption campaign. However, this was not the case, China is expected to become the largest luxury market in the world by 2025. This growth

is related to both growing disposal income and encouraging law-abiding consumption" (Kuo 2023, p. 245, 261; Chinas' Regulations on Practicing Thrift and Opposing Waste 2013).

An increase in the human development index can constitute a basic rule for optimal control over corruption (Ganchev 2024, p. 607). Due to the rule of law existing in these countries, they are able to reveal the potential of their own population virtues, which determines the following pattern, namely: new knowledge and high technologies are created, the result of which is the increase in economic power, which in turn collectively allows the creation of weapons and other tools for the physical protection of the nation's gains. Such tools also include bribery in agreements with the public authorities of highly corrupt countries. This is precisely the violation of parity, which denies the essence of the rule of law in practice and forms corrupt distortions of the international anti-corruption policy. There is no nature of law in such relations, unequal relations are saturated with the will of the dominant country and the losses of the country whose interests are subordinated to such will. This is the will not only of representatives of public authorities, but also of entrepreneurs from these countries, transnational corporations. Similarly, the domestic space demonstrates corrupt distortions in any spheres of social relations, where there is no equality of their participants, namely: marital, family, labor and career, etc.

Many of the commercial interests from developed countries are engaged in bribing public officials in developing countries. These cases of bribery occur in the context of public procurement contracts, licensing and foreign direct investment thus reinforcing the opinion of policymakers and think tanks from developing countries that developed countries are equally to blame for their contribution to grand corruption in their countries. Evidence also indicates that affluent developed countries are equally prone to corruption at the petty level as the recent scandal surrounding possible corruption amongst prison personnel suggests (Carr 2007, p. 3–4). The actual lack of correlation of subjective legal possibilities within the national legal space excludes the correlation of such

a nation in international relations. In this case, the formal-legal shell only partially corresponds to the actual filling of legal relations, but in the other part the legislation consists of norms-declarations, norms-goals. Accordingly, a corrupt country is determined by the sign of non-compliance with the legal reality of citizens' lives written in the legislation. The higher the level of corruption in the country, the greater the discrepancy, the more biased of legal requirements application, etc. The problem of corruption is solved by the parliament when it creates legislation as close as possible to the legal reality. The number of norm-declarations, norm-goals in such legislation should be such that it turns into a legal reality within the time frame determined by the public authorities. For this purpose, public administration uses the conceptualization of strategies and programs, as well as other planning methods, among the main methods of management. Up to a quarter of such transformations (from declaration to reality) can be carried over to the next planning periods, preferably short-term (up to 5 years) and with acceptable indicators of the state budget balance in the EU – a deficit of no more than 3% of GDP and debts of no more than 60% of GDP (Treaty on EU 2016, protocol # 12, art. 1). The greater the share of unfulfilled indicators of the specified transformations and/or the longer they do not take place, the more the corruption distortions increases level. This extreme limit is saturated with traitors of the nation's constitutional values and reaches the point of war against an external aggressor. At this border, where there is a loss of people, economic achievements and territories due to a war with an external aggressor, there is a strong motivation for catch-up development. The technical resource for this is the synergy of scientifically reliable knowledge and high technologies. However, over time, the power of corrupt people in such a country suppresses the transformation of legislation and practices of its application aimed at releasing the legal energy of human virtues. Corruption inhibits the country's military success and technological breakthrough. In fact, this is the second war, which is being waged against domestic corruptors, their predicate and related crimes. The speed of victory over the external enemy directly depends on

the success of this war, as well as the number of lost lives and other resources for this victory.

The dynamics of the CPI and the three indicators of quality of public governance are directly related both to the effectiveness of this governance in terms of suppressing the potential for corruption and to public perceptions of the effectiveness of the actions taken. The increased importance of the Government Effectiveness indicator is precisely because its influence shows a long-lasting impact over time, both on the dynamics of the Corruption Index and in relation to other indicators of state governance. The influence of Government Effectiveness can be defined as relative to the dynamics of the Corruption Index, and the influence of this factor is mainly directed towards the Control of Corruption indicator. The influence of Political Stability as a factor is yet another difference between the two groups of countries. For low-rated countries, including Bulgaria, no direct influence on the Corruption Index is recorded from any of the three indicators of quality of government (Ganchev 2024, p. 607–608). Using the example of Ukraine, one can observe the destructive action of corrupt officials and the traitors to the constitutional values of Ukraine involved by them both during the first wave of military aggression by the russian federation from 2014 and after February 2022. This corruption manifests itself both in the simplest forms (theft of budget funds, extortion and bribery), and in complex forms – mismanagement, in particular by military units, which has led to colossal and unjustified casualties among the military and civilians. Long-term emasculation of professionals from public authorities could not ensure effective legislation and its application in the conditions of war. “Godfather, brother, father-in-law, granddaughter, dog [kum, brat, svat, vnuchka, zhuchka] …” and/or other family, friendship ties, as well as buying positions and/or obtaining them through fawning, grovelling, and obsequiousness displaced talented and developed people in public positions. The lack of a system of control over public officials led to the fact that instead of effectively managing the army and/or other defense sectors of the country, such officials were preoccupied with satisfying their

ambitions for recognition in the scientific world, achieving career goals at the expense of the loss of soldiers, etc.

The peaceful path of anti-corruption policy, which makes it possible to use the virtues of one's own citizens at the level of developed countries, requires strict imitation of the measures taken by the Republic of Singapore, as well as their adaptation to the specific historical circumstances of the recipient country, strengthening the productivity of this country's unique features. Such resources can be the support of other countries, diasporas, the increase in world prices for export products, the tendency of various parts of the population to accumulate and/or invest capital, engage in entrepreneurship and/or art, develop information and/or digital technologies, as well as the content of the existing scientific-technical potential, etc.

In addressing corruption, the importance of the motivations and reasons for corrupt behaviour cannot be overstated (Carr 2007, p. 4). Without solving the issues of legislation adequacy to legal reality, any other anti-corruption work remains ineffective. F. i., effective compliance is costly – over £34bn is reported to be spent by the UK financial services sector on compliance every year (Gilmour 2024, p. 769).

The rule of law is a factor that reduces perceptions of corruption among the public; functioning oversight bodies, strengthened police, and more effective courts are as integral to effective anti-corruption enforcement measures. This factor cannot be addressed without reforms to reduce institutional weaknesses (Ganchev 2024, p. 606–607). The law can be interpreted and explained in detail, it can be applied contrary to common sense, selectively and/or despite the justified protests of citizens, but this does not make such a law a legal, effective tool of social reproduction and/or progress. In Malaysia, for example, the law enforcement agencies that are commonly associated with corruption are the Royal Malaysia Police, the Immigration Department of Malaysia, and the Road Transport Department. Cases of arrest, detention, prosecution, and conviction for corruption offences involving agencies, and government enforcement occur almost every month throughout the year.

Persistent family problem due to failure in financial budgeting needs leads to bribery. Greed, ambition, and immorality have been known to human society ever since the emergence of civilisation. People use every tool available to them: kinship, common past, school contacts, common interests, friendship and, political as well as religious ties. Manipulation in financial reporting is also rampant as the result of corporate unethical practices cy personnel (Norziaton 2022, p. 312, 325, 317). Other example is contemporary corruption in Myanmar. It is worse than colonial corruption. However, as feature of people's daily life, it is performative because through acts of malfeasance and misconduct often the state was manifested and experienced in everyday life. Burmese mentalities were fundamentally altered by the experience of colonialism. The colonial state emerged in everyday life through new practices in Burma, practices regularised in bureaucratic rules, legal codes and institutions financially backed by the resources of imperial Britain. Crucially, corruption was pervasive and integral to the making of the state. The new formal, legal resources of the colonial bureaucracy made possible subordinate officials' informal, illegal performances of state power. The colonial state was also enacted through judges extorting bribes; policemen used the law to frame innocent people and surreptitiously releasing friends from prison; clerks used bureaucratic procedures to embezzle government funds, pocketing stamp money etc. (Saha 2013, p. 126–129).

The history of the law establishment instead of corruption in any country supports this statement. The successful use of favorable external conditions allows improving its position in the rating of freedom from corruption, but without the correlation of legislation with legal reality, the country does not become economically developed and is not able to take a place in the top twenty of such a rating. This relationship is confirmed by the results of the anti-corruption work of specialized criminal justice bodies in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Balkan Peninsula, the Republic of the Philippines, the super-powerful anti-corruption infrastructure of Ukraine, etc. Huge resources are spent on these

bodies and they give positive results, but they do not demonstrate significant progress with the integrity of the country.

It is the public's subjective assessment of corruption potential, a mixture between perceptions of concrete results and persistent opinions that have formed over time that will underpin the final product and measure called the Corruption Index. When the public attitudes and perceptions of corruption only is shaping, the effectiveness of state governance give way to the government's capacity to both generate corruption potential and limit it (Ganchev 2024, p. 607). In addition to the parliament and specialized anti-corruption bodies, the anti-corruption model of the country is represented by both other subjects and the results of their activities. Organizationally, the anti-corruption infrastructure consists of practically all citizens of the state. For instance, in Romania, state actors "work within a discourse of modernization and governmentality, both predicated on a technocratic logic that is inherently opposed to politics. Civil society actors are more concerned with state accountability and are deeply politicized (Engle Merry 2015, p. 323).

Everyone contributes to corruption by their behavior or eliminates corrupt distortions of legal relations content. Mass protests of citizens against corruption in the form of rallies are effective only for influencing the public authorities of highly developed countries. In cases of deep and long-term corruption (more than 10 years) and/or complicated by betrayal of constitutional values (espionage etc.) only vigilantism becomes effective. So, schematically, the anti-corruption model of the nation can be imagined as follows.

The hierarchical nature of the model is in its irreversible logic. It is not possible to replace or eliminate any of the three components without losing the functionality of the national anti-corruption model. The establishment of identities, in turn, divides the development actors into a hierarchical order in which some of them are placed above the others (Engle Merry 2015, p. 321).

Referring to the Hong Kong's successful anti-corruption model, C. Sampford aptly highlighted not only the system of powerful

specialized bodies, but also strong legislation adequate to corruption challenges. NIS rely not on one major anti-corruption institution to protect public integrity, but rather on an array of institutions and procedures (Sampford 2009, p. 561, 573). In the above scheme, the anti-corruption model is determined not only by the features of the structure and/or functionality of its criminal justice bodies. The organizational dimension of effectiveness relates to the intrinsic characteristics of an specialised anticorruption bodies, including whether they are empowered to act forcefully against corruption, whether it has appropriate procedures, whether it possesses organizational integrity, and whether it is independent. The environmental dimension relates to whether it can adapt effectively to a changing political and social environment when more or new types of corruption arise (Gong 2023, p. 568). The institutionality of the model lies in the fact that these bodies exist in any organizational form, but their functionality is effective, as it has become the logical final element of the law-order ontological phenomena, namely: quality legislation and practices of its application. Simply introducing a specialized anti-corruption infrastructure into the national legal space in the form of a single specialized body or system of anti-corruption bodies does not make it effective. Creating a single overarching institution to fight corruption contains dangers: such an institution might be so powerful as to be a threat in itself; the corrupt only have to capture one institution to capture the fight against corruption; a single institution cannot address the problem from as many directions; combatting corruption is not enough – the goal is to make governments effective and a multidirectional approach is more likely to succeed (Sampford 2009, p. 562–563).

In addition to the above, it should be borne in mind that the low quality of legislation and its practical implementation determine deviations in people's behavior, since such results of the work of the parliament, public administration and courts contradict the nature of law. This nature is anthropomorphic. Accordingly, a person naturally deviates his behavior from the specified low-quality requirements of the public authorities. The productivity

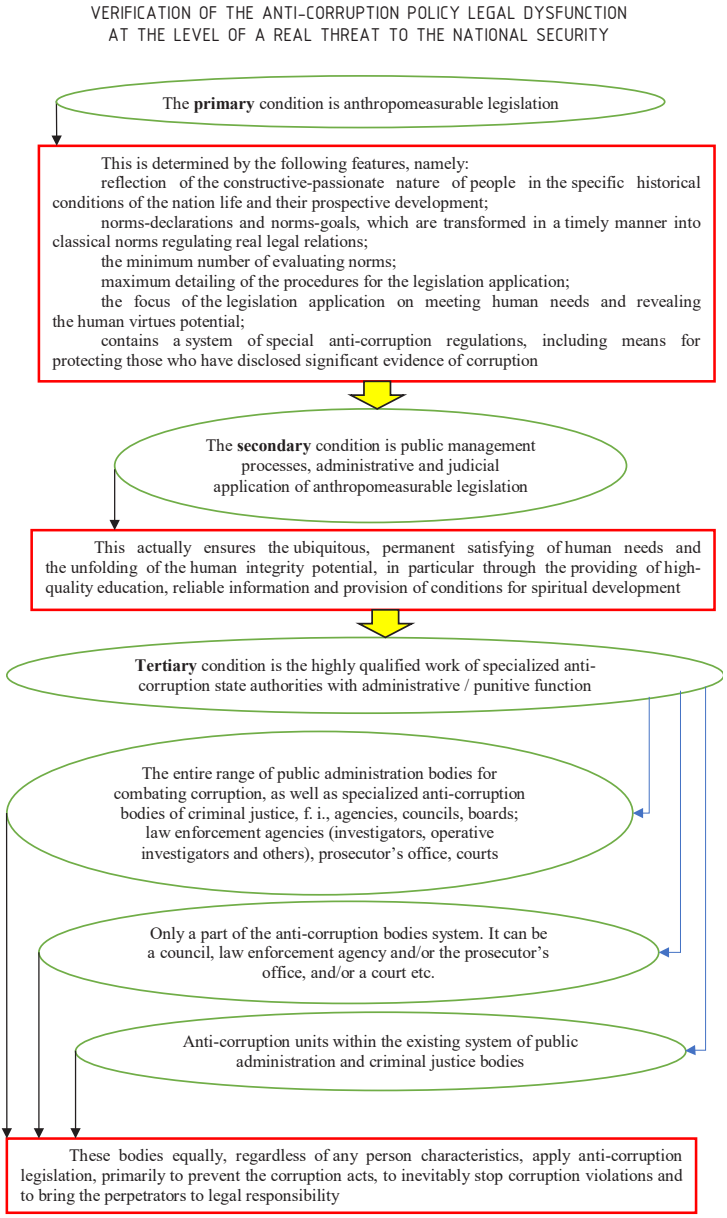

Figure 5.1. National anti-corruption model illustrating the hierarchy and institutionality of legal relationships

of these deviations will require the state to immediately reflect them in legislation.

Corruption deviations of legal subjects mean that the public authorities must adopt other norms of such quantity and content that will exclude current corruption distortions in the future. These are the norms of the future. For example, the rules on income declaration appeared for the first time in the 60s of the 20th century. at the legislation level of certain US states. In in 1978 these requirements became common throughout the US (the Ethics in Government Act, 1978). In The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, similar rules appeared in May 1974, in particular, these are rules about the House of Commons Register of Interests to encourage transparency and accountability, to provide information of any pecuniary interest or other material benefit which a Member receives which might reasonably be thought by others to influence his or her actions, speeches or votes in Parliament, or actions taken in the capacity of a Member of Parliament (Register of Interests, 1974). In Ukraine, these norms were adopted in 1993, in particular, Article 13 "Declaration of income of civil servants" (Law "On Civil Service", 1993). As we can see, future norms of this content for Ukraine have already been a 20-year reality of legal relations of public authorities in these countries. Although even this relatively late reaction is nothing if we take into account the super inertia of the international model for combating corruption. For international anti-corruption law, this norm became a novelty 10 years later, after it had already been adopted in the laws of Ukraine. According to Part 5 of Article 8 of the UN Convention, "Each State Party shall endeavour, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of its domestic law, to establish measures and systems requiring public officials to make declarations to appropriate authorities regarding, inter alia, their outside activities, employment, investments, assets and substantial gifts or benefits from which a conflict of interest may result with respect to their functions as public officials" (UN 2003).

5.2. Reflection of ensuring integrity national legal traditions in international anti-corruption law

Countries with modest achievements in the anti-corruption sphere do not even need to invent norms. This can be borrowed from developed countries and adapted to the realities of their own national legal space. Finally, we must explore how power has been arranged to make states possible (Saha 2013, p. 128). The anti-corruption model envisages a system of measures like amnesties, Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, as well as the sequential investigation models. The different mechanisms would require different levels of support. The sequential investigation model requires the support of key prosecutors or corruption fighters. It will also require a means for protecting those who have disclosed significant evidence of corruption (the whistleblowers). This is especially the case in countries where violence is used to silence opponents. In such cases, the protection systems for those who disclose should be, literally and figuratively, 'bullet proof' (Sampford 2009, p. 570).

This method of borrowing is not available to developed countries or their unique associations, such as the EU and NATO, because they have no analogues. Accordingly, their method of permanent improvement of the anti-corruption mechanism is always innovative, determined by the correct application of scientific methodology cognition the integrity in the realities of legal relations.

Regional and international institutions have been hyperactive in drafting and adopting legislation to combat corruption. We now have eight regional and international conventions. While it would be logical to expect that these conventions have adopted a harmonized approach to combating corruption, the scope of these legal instruments vary and conventions drafted more recently have taken an increasing robustness in their comprehensiveness by creating offences that may be arguably questioned for their disregard of due process (Carr 2007, p. 2). The given example of lagging in terms of using the already developed anti-corruption institutions at the national level means that nations are not united

in understanding anti-corruption policy at the international level. International legislation in this regard, neither in terms of implementation nor in content, does not reflect the true level of nations development that have implemented it in their national spaces. For those nations that did not invent the requirements of this legislation and simply subscribe to it, it remains dysfunctional to the extent that it is inconsistent with the national level of legal consciousness.

In essence, international anti-corruption norms of law are derived from international principles of law, the law of war and human rights standards, regarding which states began to formalize a common agreed will in the form of international treaties, conventions and similar acts from the end of the 19th century. For example, Convention (II) with Respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land (Hague) of 29 July 1899; Slavery Convention of the League of Nations of 25 September 1926 (The High Contracting Parties 1899; League of Nations 1926). The end of the 20th century. was marked by the first global acts of law against corruption (Makarenkov 2024, p. 168). Amalgamating human rights and anticorruption could fuel objections to the international anticorruption agenda frequently seen in the human rights context, as part of the European/Western model of statehood and rights (Bello y Villarino 2022, p. 387).

Therefore, the stratification of the international anti-corruption standard is even stronger than within the nation, as it is fueled by the energy of a larger number of legal subjects than at the national level, whose worldview legal positions require coordination. Modern international anti-corruption law needs a mechanism for harmonizing its standards even among developed countries, not to mention that the result of this harmonization should be similar for less developed countries. It is appropriate to talk about several levels of anti-corruption standards of international law, which are determined by the levels of civilizational development of nations. It is obvious that the standards of integrity in countries where the results of presidential / parliament elections are manipulated and in

countries where the re-election of representatives in public power reflect the true will of the population are different. Other ideological differences of nations can be traced in the innovative capabilities, namely: to discover new knowledge based on the results of scientific research. Less developed nations copy this knowledge because they cannot create it.

International institutions and regional organisations have scrambled to introduce anti-corruption conventions. The presence of a number of conventions (Makarenkov 2024, p. 168) is bound to leave states wondering which convention to ratify or alternatively which model to base their own legislation on. The adoption and quick ratification of the conventions by a great number of states are insufficient to curb the undesirable practice of corruption (Carr 2007, p. 22, 35). The national norms of the law Western tradition countries have become innovative in the fight against corruption, for example, in the USA, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Federal Republic of Germany. Their examples were imitated by the countries of the Eastern tradition of law, particularly successfully by the Republic of Singapore and Japan. The determinant of domestic anti-corruption legislative standards and practices development was the desire to develop further, which was impossible without freeing the human virtues of the majority from the human vices of the minority to the extent that the nations were ready for in a spiritual-cultural sense. Under conditions of competition, some less developed states followed the anti-corruption standards of more developed states. In cases where this allowed them to create initial conditions for catch-up development, we can talk about the anthropo-dimension of the national anti-corruption law. Here we are dealing with the proper adaptation of these standards to domestic legal realities, their measurement by the nature of the virtues of own population, the correct relevant legislation formulation and application.

As large and leading economies, G20 countries have a responsibility to address obstacles to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Integrity and anti-corruption form the cornerstone of well-functioning financial markets and cross-border payments systems.

Thus, they must serve as fundamental pillars within strategies geared towards attracting essential financing for sustainable development (G20 2024, p. 18). The nations grouping by development correlates with the level of anti-corruption standards. The higher the anti-corruption standard, the higher the material and spiritual development, and vice versa. There is no example of economic prosperity and/or technological advancement in nations with significant levels of corruption. The essence of the legal regularity is that development is the result of good human energy disclosure. The aggregate of this kind energy is nothing but virtue. Virtue is the only method, condition and source of the nation's development. Accordingly, nations are concerned with their anti-corruption policy only by trying to define the manifestations of integrity and reflect the conditions for this in legislation. Further, nations also take care that this legislation is correctly applied by public administration, law enforcement agencies, courts and private law subjects. It is important at this stage that the legal meaning of human virtues disclosure, successfully reflected in the legislation, is not distorted in social relations. Implementation of legal requirements always follows the spirit of law which cannot be replaced by a form of law.

Power-sharing and self-restraint on the part of rulers lead bureaucrats to believe that serving the public interest matters in the eyes of the ruler, encouraging them to implement the laws faithfully. Of course, the divergent paths of weak states and strong states are rooted in a wide range of factors (Hong 2023, p. 373). As a result, the international anti-corruption model is the essence of the national anti-corruption standards of highly developed countries. Of course, nations whose level of civilizational development does not allow them to feel closeness and/or understand the content of these standards do not become participants in international anti-corruption policy. Moreover, by analogy with inequality in international economic relations, such nations lose resources for parity economic and other interaction with more developed nations in the fight against corruption, become vulnerable to international corruption influences, etc. The inequality

between one who gives orders and one who must obey is not as radical as that between one who has a right to demand an answer and one who has the duty to answer (Engle Merry 2015, p. 317)

The effectiveness of existing conventional anticorruption law is undermined by existing mechanisms for ensuring the fulfillment of international obligations and the limitations that can be found in the regulatory content of conventional anticorruption law (Bello y Villarino 2022, p. 395). The international anti-corruption model is also specified in meaningful areas, namely: neutralization of bribery, laundering of corruption funds, pandering to relatives, conflict of interests, reporting of income, efficiency of spending on public procurement, etc. Nowadays, there is no system of international rules for any of these areas. Such a system operates within the EU, in particular, already at the stage of understanding the role of AI systems in accordance with privacy and data protection rules, while processing data that meets high standards in terms of quality and integrity (EU's AI act 2024). For instance, an income and asset disclosure programme can be a useful tool for combating corruption. But it must be designed and administered with the particular circumstances of the country in mind. There is a rich experience with these programmes in developed and developing countries that reformers can draw upon when establishing a programme or revising an existing one (Messick 2009, p. 16).

In 2021, the UN declared the need to define the possible models of disposal and administration of confiscated proceeds of offences established in accordance with the Convention, including, where feasible, allocating such proceeds to the national revenue fund or the State treasury, reinvesting funds for special purposes and compensating victims of the crime, including through the social reuse of assets for the benefit of communities (UN 2021, item 49). Herewith, the system of criminal justice bodies for countermeasures at the international level needs development, namely: to the existing law enforcement functionality of Interpol, at least institutes of prosecutors and judges with international jurisdiction in anti-corruption cases should be added.

Conclusions. Therefore, anti-corruption policy has become constant value when it is implemented on an institutional basis. Such a basis means its independence from the acquisition of public power by any person and/or group of people. The permanence and completeness of good virtues manifestation in legal relations are ontologically determined by nation-building processes, which, in turn, are based on the values of law specific to human nature. The anti-corruption model is influenced by all that is immanent to these two factors (the nation and legal values), including historical, spiritual and cultural, external conjuncture, climatic, geographical and other living conditions. Such a model becomes effective when all the mentioned factors and their conditions form the best, compared to others, basis for the nation development by using the energy of all its members virtues. Any procrastination, irresponsibility and/or unwarranted loss of vigilance with regard to the components of this model leads to crises, decline and/or disappearance of the nation over various time horizons, latently and/or gradually.