

**CONCEPT
OF STRENGTHENING THE STABILITY OF
DEMOCRACY
IN UKRAINE**

For decades, the influence of oligarchic clans has been the biggest internal threat to the stability of democracy and national security of Ukraine, hindering its development and accession to the EU and NATO. Networks of oligarchic and corrupt influence were actively used by the Russian Federation for subversive activities and efforts to completely subordinate Ukraine to the Russian autocracy.

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy consistently implements the public demand for countering oligarchic and corruption threats, ensuring real economic competition and fair distribution of resources that belong to the Ukrainian people. In the conditions of repelling the large-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and in order to prevent the restoration of the dismantled oligarchic and corrupt influence, the following is necessary:

1. Guaranteeing the stability of democracy in Ukraine and the final cleansing from oligarchic and corrupt influence, which means strengthening parliamentarism and the voters' ability to influence the processes of state management, strengthening the institutional capacities of state authorities and further development of the judiciary.
2. Development of competition, demonopolization and fair distribution of resources belonging to the Ukrainian people as a guarantee of equality in relations between the state and all economic entities.
3. Transparent mechanisms of interaction with the state, which are based on the ability of Ukrainian citizens to influence the political decisions` making and the formation of the country's course.

This Concept outlines the primary measures to counter oligarchic and corruption threats in the conditions of repelling large-scale aggression of the Russian Federation and forms the basis for strengthening the national security of Ukraine, protecting the development of its democracy from authoritarian encroachments, as well as ensuring strategic planning in the process of implementing the relevant basic legal acts of the state.

MAIN DIRECTIONS AND MEASURES

I. The stability of democracy in Ukraine and purification from oligarchic and corrupt influence

Strengthening parliamentarism and voters' ability to influence state management:

- improvement of the electoral legislation of Ukraine in accordance with modern political and security conditions;
- development of a proportional electoral system to effectively ensure the implementation of democratic expression of will;
- reduction in the number of deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in accordance with public demand and the development of democracy in Ukraine;
- reduction of the number of deputies of local councils;
- optimization of the number of committees in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.
- update of the Regulations of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;
- strengthening the requirements for parliamentary appeals and inquiries to prevent potential abuse of this right and hidden lobbying activities;
- strengthening mechanisms for adherence to ethical standards by members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, including the adoption of an Ethical Code for members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;
- improvement of the forms and principles of parliamentary and party discipline with the aim of introducing party structuring of society, holding parties accountable for pre-election promises, avoiding issues of inter-party transfer of deputies, and implementing of imperative mandate.

Strengthening the institutional capacities of state authorities:

- enhancing the effectiveness of government bodies (digitization of government activities and all public services; reforming wage system based on job classification (grading system), and establishing an efficient "Government Center");
- implementation of state policy regarding the involvement of war veterans in public positions as the most motivated patriots of Ukraine;
- implementation of the English language in Ukraine as the language of international communication, including within government bodies;
- establishment of a consultative and advisory body under the President of Ukraine for the development and implementation of effective mechanisms for uncompromising counteraction to oligarchic-corruption threats;
- implementation of a stable and consistent state criminal policy based on strategic documents;
- ensuring the efficiency of criminal proceedings by optimizing the national system for the protection of participants of criminal proceedings, developing mechanisms for

compensating damages, payment fines, or implementing other measures aimed at compensating damages as an alternative to criminal liability, while strengthening criminal liability for certain types of crimes to ensure the protection of national interests from oligarchic and corruption threats;

- strengthening the institutional capacity of anti-corruption bodies of Ukraine, primarily the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, and ensuring their activities with additional guarantees of independence, including the improvement of the organizational and legal foundations of the functioning of the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office;
- optimization of the management system of law enforcement bodies and the prosecutor's office in compliance with the principles of openness, competitiveness, compliance with EU standards, gender equality, non-discrimination, and impartiality. Establishment of a Research Center for independent forensic examinations to ensure the administration of justice;
- strengthening mechanisms to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing based on risk assessment;
- developing the State Security Service of Ukraine as a specially authorized government body in the fields of counterintelligence activities and protection of state secrets, the principal body in the national system for countering threats to state security, including addressing threats to the country's military and economic security during wartime;
- completion of the decentralization reform;
- further implementation of the course of joining the EU and NATO (adoption of directives, standards, and regulations);
- implementation of the "European Green Deal" initiatives.

Development of the judiciary:

- improvement of the procedure for conducting constitutional proceedings;
- legislative regulation of the activity of the Supreme Court to ensure the unity of judicial practice, and strengthening its resistance to oligarchic and corruption threats;
- establishment of a court with jurisdiction over the protection of the rights of investors and investments;
- review of the appliance of the institution of jury trial in Ukraine;
- optimization of procedures for the selection and appointment to the position of judge, implementing an effective system for assessing the integrity of candidates for judicial positions and the judicial corps;
- restoration and optimization of procedures for consideration by the High Council of Justice of disciplinary proceedings concerning judges, formation of a functionally independent Service of Disciplinary Inspectors of the High Council of Justice;
- improvement of the mechanism for enforcing court decisions in Ukraine.

II. Development of competition, demonopolisation and fair distribution of resources which belong to the Ukrainian people

Guarantees of the policy of equality in relations between the state and all economic entities:

- protection of legitimate business interests from possible unlawful actions by law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as other public authorities. Consolidation of the powers of law enforcement agencies to combat offences affecting the state's economy in a single body - the Bureau of Economic Security of Ukraine;
- legislative regulation of honest lobbying to ensure transparency in the interaction between business, the public and public authorities;
- creating an effective mechanism of deoligarchisation in Ukraine and preventing the emergence of new oligarchic structures, introducing the national register of oligarchs and ensuring its proper functioning;
- depriving the central executive authorities of the functions of managing state-owned enterprises aimed at making a profit;
- reform of the antimonopoly legislation of Ukraine (enhancing the protection of economic competition and strengthening the institutional capacity of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine);
- eliminating the risks of possible state interference in the activities of business entities, reducing the number of licenses and permits;
- completion of privatization, completion of corporate governance reform based on OECD principles;
- creation of the Sovereign Wealth Fund of Ukraine to manage strategic state assets and the Fund for the management of state defense enterprises, privatization of state-owned banks.

III. Development of transparent mechanisms for interaction with the state

Enhancement of the opportunities for Ukrainian citizens to affect political decisions and the state's policy course:

- strengthening the mechanisms of interaction between state institutions and civil society; acknowledging by the state the contribution of civil society to the preservation and protection of Ukraine's independence, to the development of democracy in Ukraine; fostering and providing tangible support by the state to the growth of civil society, including anti-corruption non-governmental organizations;
- state support and further advancement of professional independent journalism in Ukraine as a foundation for media independence; facilitating efforts to combat Russian disinformation and any anti-democratic propaganda;
- ensuring the continued development of modern secondary, vocational, and higher education in Ukraine; providing equal access for children to education and supporting a

balance between technical and humanities disciplines in order to ensure that new generations fully understand the principles of human rights, the rule of law, and democracy as systems that are foundational to the peaceful coexistence of states;

- completion of the refinement of the legislative framework concerning national minorities;
- establishing clear and transparent rules for interaction between the state, local self-government bodies, citizens, and businesses; implementing the Law of Ukraine on 'Administrative Procedure' (which reduces administrative burdens, minimizes corruption risks, and ensures the rights for the 'pre-judicial' appeal of administrative decisions);
- implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2021-2025, in accordance with the State Anti-Corruption Program for 2023-2025 approved by the Government of Ukraine.