**The Use of Information Communications Technology in the Fight Against Corruption: The Case of Vietnam**

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**INTRODUCTION**

In Vietnam, the application of technology in general and information communications technology in particular to management is a measure to prevent and fight against corruption, which was officially stipulated in the Law on Anti-corruption No.55/2005/QH11 and was continued specifying in the Law on Anti-corruption No.36/2018/QH14. In recent years, the Government and local authorities have taken many measures to increase the application of information technology to management with the reform of the government. The implementation of these measures has achieved positive results, especially in relation to administrative procedure reform and building of data systems to manage some fields. However, the application of information technology to management still has many shortcomings, limitations, difficulties, and challenges. By the requirements of anti-corruption and modernization of the state administration in the context of state administrative reform, effective measures are needed to enhance the application of information technology to management against corruption.

**The change from awareness to institutional perfection**

Corruption is often understood as an abuse of public power for the private benefits by a variety of manifestations. There may be differences among countries in regulating the specific behaviors of corruption. However, the international community still acknowledges that the common two acts of corruption are embezzlement and accepting bribes. Therefore, in order to prevent corruption, it is necessary to establish conditions to control public power as a way to prevent organizations and individuals from abusing their power to appropriate money and assets under their authority (embezzlement) or using our power to receive improper benefits (accepting bribes).

With institutional models and socio-economic conditions, each state implements the control of power by different ways. Western countries seem to appreciate the role and meaning of openness and transparency in the fight against corruption. At the 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in Athens (Greece) gave a formula for corruption, thatis: C = M + D - A. Therein, C for Corruption; M for Monopoly; D for Discretion; A for Accountability.

 Apart from openness and transparency, accountability, some countries also focus on measures to strengthen the control of individual behavior, and limit human greed. Singapore's "three no" theory is one example. The purpose of anti-corruption here is to implement measures so that civil servants "do not want to be corrupt", "cannot be corrupt" and "do not dare to be corrupt". Regardless of the measures, the prevention of corruption has a common point that is to apply modern management measures to control the actions of the authorities, limit the direct contact between people with positions, powers, and subjects under management, and gradually limit the human factor in performing administrative activities. Only that way can ensure objectivity in public service, and limit negative harassment.

 In Vietnam, the anti-corruption measures and the application of the different anti-corruption measures also are specified in legal documents within evolvement. During the implementation of the 1998 Anti-Corruption Ordinance, the anti-corruption measures mainly focused on regulating and implementing regulations about which cadres and civil servants are not allowed to do, the declaration of houses and land and other assets of big value, the publicity in a number of fields such as the publicity of administrative procedures, publicity of allocation, use of state budget funds, state capital and assets for targeted projects and programs[[1]](#footnote-1).

The 2005 Law on Anti-Corruption officially stipulated that increasing the application of science and technology to management is one of the measures to prevent corruption. Accordingly, the 2005 Law on Anti-Corruption stipulated that the agencies, organizations and units have responsibility for regularly improving their work, enhancing the application of science and technology to their activities, and facilitating for citizens, agencies, organizations, and units to exercise their legitimate rights and interests. In addition, the agencies, organizations and units are also responsible for guiding the order and procedures for settling jobs so that the agencies, organizations, units, and individuals actively perform without having to directly contact with cadres, civil servants, and public employees[[2]](#footnote-2). Moreover, in the Law on Anti-Corruption 2005, about one-third of the total number of laws providing for the disclosure and transparency of operations of agencies, organizations, and units also identified a significant role of publicity and transparency measures in preventing corruption. The Law also stipulated 7 forms of publicity and transparency, therein two of these forms consisted of an announcement on the mass media and posting on websites. The implementation of these forms of publicity also has required the application of modern science and technology[[3]](#footnote-3).

After 10 years of implementing the 2005 Law on Anti-Corruption, the Government stated that “Activities to promote management technology innovation are also focused, such as expanding the application of quality management systems according to a standard, namely ISO, in association with the reform of administrative procedures, the application of information technology in operations". By the means of the reform of administrative procedures in relation to the application of information technology to management, nearly 400,000 businesses have declared tax through the Internet, accounting for 86% of active businesses; set up and published a national database of 102,911 administrative procedure documents and 9,855 documents related to administrative procedures at 4 levels of government and disclosed on the Internet[[4]](#footnote-4). The application of information technology has made important contributions. From 2011 to the end of 2015, there was a significant increase in the level of publicity and transparency over the past five years reaching at 5.92: from 5.47 to 5.88 points; compared with the period 2006 - 2011, it increased sharply from 3.1 to 5.47 points[[5]](#footnote-5). 2011 is also the year for the first time to establish and publish a national database on administrative procedures at four levels of government and publicize it on the Internet. The Government has simplified nearly 5,000 administrative procedures under the managerial functions of ministries and agencies, standardized and agreed to reduce from 10,000 sets of communal administrative procedures and 700 sets of district-level administrative procedures to 63 sets at each level[[6]](#footnote-6).

The application of information technology to management to prevent and fight corruption in some specific fields has also been concentrated in Vietnam. In 2006, the Central Committee of the Party pointed out: corruption and waste have still been serious in many branches, levels and fields with a wide scope, complex nature, bad consequences in many aspects, which causes the decrease of the public's trust, is one of the great dangers for the survival of the Party and our regime[[7]](#footnote-7). After that, the Government continued to identify complicated corruption in many fields such as land management, land use, construction investment, and SOE equitization, management, and use of state capital and assets[[8]](#footnote-8). From the requirements of anti-corruption in the above-mentioned high-risk areas of corruption, in fact, there have been a number of cases of corruption and waste causing serious consequences in these fields. There are regulations in the specialized law that ensures public disclosure and transparency and requires the application of information technology to management. Regarding the above fields, many international organizations are also immensely interested in the corruption situation in public procurement and consider this as an area where anti-corruption is complicated. Transparency International - USA (TI-USA) and Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) illustrated in a study that when corruption emerges in public procurement, the situation becomes complicated because of the fact that the media rarely focuses on public procurement, partly because of the technical nature of the activity and partly because of the lack of specialist knowledge of journalists. In addition, it is also difficult to collect information on public procurement-related issues and publish articles on sensitive issues such as corruption, problems related to the huge amount of money and immutable benefits, and large state-owned enterprises[[9]](#footnote-9)

In the field of public procurement, on the basis of the Law on Bidding 2005, the Law on Electronic Transactions 2005, the Ministry of Planning and Investment issued Circular No. 17/2010/TT-BKH dated 22th July 2010 detailing on the pilot online bidding. Through the successful pilot results of online bidding in the period from 2009 to 2012, the Law on Bidding 2013 was supplemented with regulations on online bidding in order to be transparent and simplify bidding procedures, at the same time implemented commitments with the international community on the determination to prevent and fight corruption, and increase the effectiveness of bidding activities. The Law on Bidding 2013 stipulated that bidding information must be posted on the national bidding network, the bidding newspaper. In addition, this information could be posted in other mass media to be convenient for interested objects[[10]](#footnote-10). The Government has detailed the types of information that ministries, ministerial-level agencies, government agencies, other central agencies, provincial People's Committees, and authorized persons are responsible for providing information on the national bidding network.

On a large scale, the application of the advent of information technology to management has become an urgent requirement in management, especially in serving the leadership, direction, and administration of the administrative system last time. The State Administration Reform Master Program for the 2011-2020 period identified one of the important tasks that is to modernize the public administration and requires the application of information technology to management, specifically:

- Perfecting and promoting the operation of the Government's electronic information network on the Internet. Promoting the application of information and communication technology to the activities of state administrative agencies...

- Using of information and communication technology in the handling process of each state administrative agency, among state administrative agencies and in transactions with organizations and individuals, especially in the public administrative services, public services of public non-business units;

- Publishing the list of public administrative services on the Government's electronic administrative information network on the Internet. Developing and using uniformly electronic forms in transactions between state administrative agencies, organizations, and individuals to meet the requirements of simplicity and reform of administrative procedures[[11]](#footnote-11).

Summary of state administrative reform for the period 2011-2015 and the state administrative reform orientation and tasks for the 2016-2020 period, the Administration Reform Steering Committee of the Government evaluated: Information technology infrastructure is basicallybuilt to meet the operational requirements of State agencies; most of the ministries, branches and localities have deployed an official email system to serve the work; increasing the use of electronic documents in the activities of state agencies according to Directive No.15/CT-TTg dated 22/5/2012 of the Prime Minister has been implemented with results. 80% of the administrative documents were exchanged electronically by central and local administrative agencies; the number of administrative agencies under ministries, industries, provincial specialized agencies and district-level administrative units using the intranet (LAN) to communicate about jobs in 2011, reached nearly 2,900 units, by 2015 nearly 3,500 units, an increase of about 20.67%. 100% of basic public services have been provided online at level 2 by ministries, branches, and localities; online public services at levels 3 and 4 have been implemented by agencies and units[[12]](#footnote-12).

The development of information technology creates a great opportunity for changing the management method of government towards modernization and gives the need to apply information technology to government activities, provide services public service, and carry out government activities on platforms such as websites. The growth of digital and the global Internet has enabled the Government to change some of the operations of state agencies so that the public can interact directly with the administrative bodies. Administrative agencies can also easily share information and exchange information with others. Those are the foundations for building E-Government. In Vietnam, on 14th October 2015, the Government issued Decree No. 36a/NQ-CP on E-Government; on 7th March 2019, the Government issued Decree No.17/NQ-CP on a number of key tasks and solutions for E-Government development in the 2019-2020 period and a vision to 2025. One of the tasks, the proposed solution is: Building and developing E-Government to ensure a close connection between the application of information technology with administrative reform, the reform of ways and working methods for the public and business, implementing national digital transformation towards the digital government, digital economy and digital society[[13]](#footnote-13). The implementation of E-Government and the "Make in Vietnam" strategy are two of the typical information and Communication Technology events that are of great interest in 2019, thanks to the results of the application of information technology in Vietnam in the branches and fields. The report at the Online Conference of National Committee on E-Government on 12th February 2020 identified that the rate of level 4 online public services will double in 2019; 100% of ministries, branches, and localities connected with the national document axis; 86.5% of electronic documents exchanged via internet and thousands of billion dongs each year was saved ... From the time of the opening button pressed by Prime Minister (December 9, 2019) to the time of the Conference, 9/22 ministries, agencies and 100% of provinces and cities had been connected and integrated with the National Public Service Portal[[14]](#footnote-14). On August 26 2020, the National Committee on E-Government held an online conference with the Steering Committee to build E-Government of ministries and industry and the Steering Committee to build E-Government in 63 provinces and cities. According to the Government Office's report, after more than 8 months of operation, the National Public Service Portal has integrated and provided 1,039 online public services/6,842 administrative procedures at 4 levels of government. The National Public Service Portal has received great attention from the public and businesses. It has reached over 60 million clicks, over 235,000 registered accounts; over 15 million synchronized status records, over 295,000 online records performed on the Portal; receiving and supporting over 24,000 calls and 7,800 reflections and recommendations. From March 2020, the online payment system of the National Public Service Portal was put into operation, until now there have been 9,000 transactions, particularly in August 2020, there were over 3 thousand transactions with the amount of about 5 billion Vietnam Dong[[15]](#footnote-15).

**Opportunities and challenges**

The rapid change of science and technology in recent years in relation to the achievements of the development of information technology, the global network "connecting things", "big data", "artificial intelligence"... have changed the method of state governance. The application of information technology to management not only motivates organizations and enterprises to develop their business activities and brings economic benefits but also helps government agencies to implement effective management methods, which contributes to well solving the affairs of organizations and individuals, at the same time, contributes to the prevention, detection and handling of corruption, waste and negative. The results from the modernization of the administration in recent years have had a positive impact on state management, created a foundation for agencies, organizations and units to continue investing and developing. The good implementation of this solution also contributes to ensuring the effective implementation of other measures to prevent corruption, such as publicity and transparency of the operations of agencies, organizations, units, and construction and implementing norms, regimes, standards, and controlling income assets of persons with positions and powers...

With the achievements of information technology and the specific determination and efforts of the political system, Vietnam can fully take advantage of that opportunity to take effective anti-corruption measures. Based on the previous regulations, the 2018 Law on Anti-Corruption continues to stipulate: Agencies, organizations and units have the responsibility to increase investment in equipment, improve capacity, promote creativity and apply science and technology to organization and operation of their own agencies, organizations, or units. Ministries and branches shall have to step up the construction and operation of national information and data systems in service of the management of branches and fields under their respective scope of responsibility in accordance with law[[16]](#footnote-16).

However, besides the results and achievements, the application of information technology to state management has still existed some limitations. Currently, there are many databases in administrative agencies, but there are still many problems to extract and share information. The coordination between vertical agencies and local administrative agencies in the application of information technology is not effective and comprehensive. Administrative procedures are always changing and ISO processes are still cumbersome and inconsistent, which causes difficulties in deploying shared software, sharing information and connecting data. Information technology infrastructure inwards and communes has not been given due attention. The qualifications of ward and commune officials in applying and maintaining information technology applications are dealing with many difficulties. Some ministries, branches and localities have not closely followed in directing the implementation; have not strictly implemented the requirements in the application of the quality management system according to ISO 9001: 2008[[17]](#footnote-17).

Answering questions of Congressmen at the 5th session of the 14th National Assembly on the current situation of E-Government construction nowadays, the Prime Minister continued pointing out its problems and difficulties that are: Regarding mechanisms and policies to support the building of E-Government, there are no regulations on data connection and sharing in the activities of state agencies; the lack of specific regulations on electronic documents, electronic archives, the legal validity of electronic documents and documents regulating the use of electronic documents in administrative and payment transactions. The incentive policies to promote the development and application of information technology that were developed slowly are the tax incentives, including the capital transfer tax of the start-up business owners. A number of agencies and leaders have not directly directed and regulated information technology application activities, E-Government development, or the direction was not drastic or exemplary. In addition, cadres and civil servants in some public offices still have the habit of working based on paper, are afraid to use information technology because they are afraid of losing control, losing their roles and being monitored. The technical department has a local mentality, does not connect, share information and data, wants to do it all by themselves from purchasing computers to software…National databases, core information systems creating a foundation for information technology application, E-Government development is slow to be deployed; information systems and databases have been deployed without connection and sharing[[18]](#footnote-18).

The limitations and shortcomings in the administrative reform in general and the administrative modernization, in particular, will impact directly on the implementation of anti-corruption measures. First of all, those limitations and shortcomings hinder the implementation of measures of publicity and transparency in the activities of agencies and organizations and units. In addition, the building, sharing of information, and connecting data to serve the anti-corruption of agencies and organizations will also encounter problems.

In recent years, sharing information and data among competent agencies in the performance of anti-corruption tasks, among the Government Inspectorate, the Supreme People's Procuracy, the Supreme People's Court The State Audit, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Public Security have issued a joint circular on the exchange, management and use of information and data on anti-corruption, including the principles of communication, management and use of information and data; the responsibilities of agencies in the exchange, management and use of information; content providing information, data; the forms of exchanging and supplying information and data; the management and use of information and data[[19]](#footnote-19). At the international level, the United Nations Convention against Corruption also states: “States Parties shall endeavor to cooperate within their means to respond to a transnational organized crime committed through the use of modern technology”[[20]](#footnote-20). As a member of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Vietnam must fulfill the responsibility of a state party. Therefore, limitations and shortcomings in the application of modern technology to management will hinder the sharing of information and data among domestic authorities and those between Vietnamese competent authorities and international organizations and the units of processing information in other countries, especially in the context that Vietnam does not have a specialized anti-corruption agency.

Moreover, the 2018 Law on Anti-Corruption regulated a chapter on controlling assets and income of people with positions and powers with 24 Articles (accounting for ¼ of the total number of Articles of the Law on Anti-Corruption). That shows the importance of this institution. In order to control assets and income of persons with positions and powers, the 2018 Law on Anti-Corruption stipulates the development of a National Database on the asset and income control. Accordingly, the National Database of Asset and Income Control collects information on declarations, asset verification conclusions, and other data related to asset and income controls in accordance with regulations. The national database on asset and income control is built and centrally managed at the Government Inspectorate of Vietnam. The Government will detail a number of regulations related to the construction and operation of a national data system on the control of assets and income[[21]](#footnote-21). Finding a solution to build a National Database on the control of assets and income of people with positions and powers has become one of the problems that receive a lot of concerns and recommendations in the process of drafting a Decree on overseeing the assets and income of persons with positions and powers because it is not just a common information system on the declaration of assets and income. More importantly, it is expected to be an effective data system for the verification and handling of violations in the implementation of regulations on the control of assets and income. The international practices identified that there are many components to have an effective system of assets and income declaration. These are: (i) a moderate number of people to declare; (ii) a good data management system for record management; (iii) taking effective measures to sanction those who do not comply; and (iv) disclosing income and asset declaration information to the public ... In fact, Vietnam, as well as a number of countries, have chosen to declare income and assets with a wide range of subjects to the declaration. It is very difficult to manage the large number of people required to declare their assets and income and verify the declarations submitted. Even though it is a simple declaration form with discrete information or more complex forms, detailed declaration requirements, the income and asset declaration system is still a weak tool to fight against corruption if the information into those systems is beyond the system's regulatory and monitoring capacity[[22]](#footnote-22).

In addition, the operation and exploitation of the national data system on controlling income and assets of persons with positions and powers require a connection between the national database on the control of assets and income and the data systems on land, real estate, personal property, tax administration, which can really promote the significant role of system. When there is no interconnection between other data systems and property and income of the public in general and persons with positions and powers in particular, the real construction and implementation of a Data System on the control of assets and income will be in trouble.

**Recommendations**

Regarding the above-mentioned opportunities and challenges, in order to enhance the application of information technology in management to prevent and fight corruption, it is necessary to implement the following solutions:

Firstly, strengthen leadership and direction to strictly implement regulations on publicity and transparency of the performance of agencies, organizations, and units in the state sector, and business cooperation, and non-state organizations especially the mandatory requirements for the application of information technology in public and transparent forms.

The 2018 Law on Anti-Corruption has gradually expanded the scope of anti-corruption to the non-state sector. Accordingly, public companies, credit institutions and social organizations are established by the decision of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs or the President of the People's Committee of the province must also take some measures to prevent corruption, including publicity and transparency. In order to implement this measure, it is required to have specific provisions on the responsibilities of the entities in implementing those measures, especially organizations, enterprises must also apply information technology to management so as to show all contents publicly, transparently, public form, responsibility for making publicity and transparency specified in Article 9, Article 10.1.a, c, d; Article 11; Article 12 of the 2018 Law on Anti-Corruption.

*Secondly,* the current information technology platform can be applied in publicity and transparency to the corruption situation and the results of anti-corruption, which contributes to raising public awareness as well as the responsibility of competent agencies, organizations and individuals in anti-corruption. The Law on Anti-Corruption in 2018 also stipulated that: Reports on anti-corruption must be publicized on the websites of state agencies or the mass media. The Government should have specific guidance on the responsibilities of the subjects, the order and procedures for publicly reporting on the work against corruption.

*Thirdly*, the institutions about the control of assets and income of persons with positions and powers under the Law on Anti-Corruption in Vietnam have a lot of new contents such as the provisions on who must declare the methods of declaration and basis for assets and income verification, the system of asset and income control agencies... Thereby, the Government should soon issue a Decree on assets and income control to regulate and guide the implementation of these regulations. It is necessary to have specific regulations on the application of information technology to the construction, management and exploitation of the National Database on the control of assets and income of people with positions and powers; ensure that the management, exploitation and use of information and data with the interconnection of data storage systems of competent agencies in anti-corruption to share public duties is generally agreed upon benefits but still ensure state secrets, privacy under the provisions of the law. Regulations on building and operating the database of assets and income control, it is necessary to clearly define the responsibilities of each subject and the coordination between agencies, organizations and units in sharing information and data.

*Fourthly,* one of the challenges is that the application of information technology to management leads to changing some habits in performing public duties, even affecting directly some individuals. Therefore, it is necessary to raise the responsibility of the leaders of agencies, organizations and units in applying information technology to management. It is one of the important criteria to evaluate ministries, civil servants and public employees.

*Fifthly,* the application of information technology in the fight against corruption requires building a contingent of professional, professional and dedicated cadres, civil servants and public employees. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the training and education for civil servants and public employees who are proficient in administrative management skills, and are good at the use of information technology, communication, and have sufficient capacity to management, operation, exploitation and the use of data systems.

*Sixthly,* strengthening inspection, examination, supervision and handling responsibility for agencies, organizations and units that do not strictly implement the administrative reform measures in general and the application of information and technology to management in particular.

In recent years, through indicators determining the level of openness, transparency and accountability of state administrative agencies in the indicators related to public governance capacity in Vietnam such as Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI), the Vietnam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI), Public Administration Reform Index of Ministries, Ministerial-level Agencies, Provincial People's Committees, Central Cities (PAR INDEX), Provincial Anti-Corruption Index (PACA), Department & District Competitiveness Index (DDCI); Satisfaction Index of Public Administrative Services (SIPAS). The publication of ranking results according to these indicators has had a strong impact on the subjects' perception in performing assigned tasks and public affairs. However, the ranking and announcement of measurement results from those sets of indicators is not really a strong measure to determine the responsibilities of the competent agencies, organizations, units and individuals in the case of improperly implementing the measures of administrative reform in general and the scientific application to management in particular. Therefore, on the one hand, the government should continue to publicize the results of assessing the governance capacity of entities according to the above sets of indicators as well as strengthen the inspection, examination and handling of those who do not conduct the administrative reform measures in general and the application of information technology to management in particular.

 *Seventhly,* the application of information technology to state management and anti-corruption requires a large financial resource to invest in asynchronous and systematic manner. Therefore, the state and organizations and enterprises in the non-state sector need to allocate appropriate resources for building software and databases so as to serve management; ensure compatibility, modernity; to meet the requirements for anti-corruption./.

1. Ordinance on Anti-Corruption 1998, Article 13, Article 14, Article 15 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The 2005 Law on Anti-Corruption 2005, Article 57 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Law on Anti-Corruption 2005, Article 2.1.e, Articles 2.1.đ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Report No. 330/BC-CP dated September 22, 2016 of the Government summarizing 10 years of implementation of the Law on Anti-Corruption 2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The survey results on the Vietnam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index in 2015 - PAPI 2015 implemented by the Center for Community Support Develop Studies (CECODES), Center for Personnel Fostering and Scientific Research of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Report No. 218/BC-CP dated October 19 2011 of the Government on anti-corruption activities in 2011 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Resolution of the 3rd Conference of the Central Executive Committee (Term X) on strengthening the Party's leadership in the prevention and fight against corruption and waste [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy to 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Transparency International - USA (TI-USA) and International Private Enterprise Center (2011): APEC Transparency Standards for Public Procurement in Vietnam [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The Law on Bidding 2013, Article 8 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Resolution 30c / NQ-CP dated November 8 2011 of the Government promulgating the Master Program on State Administration Reform in the 2011-2020 period [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Government Administration Reform Steering Committee (2016): Brief report on state administrative reform for the period 2011 - 2015 and directions and tasks for state administrative reform in the 2016 - 2020 period [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Resolution 17/ NQ-CP dated March 7 2019 of the Government regarding certain key tasks and measures of the E-Government development for the 2019 - 2020 period with a vision towards 2025. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Vietnamese Government (2020), E-Government and good practices from the strategy “Make in Vietnam” <http://baochinhphu.vn/Khoa-hoc-Cong-nghe/Xay-dung-Chinh-phu-dien-tu-va-nhung-diem-sang-tu-chien-luoc-Make-in-Vietnam/387601.vgp> accessed 14th October 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Ministry of Health Portal, (2020) https://moh.gov.vn/hoat-dong-cua-lanh-dao-bo/-/asset\_publisher/TW6LTp1ZtwaN/content/thu-tuong-chu-tri-hoi-nghi-truc-tuyen-ve-chinh-phu-dien-tu accessed 14th October, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. The Law on Anti-corruption 2018, Article 28 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Administrative Reform Steering Committee of the Government (2016): Preliminary report on state administrative reform for the period 2011-2015 and directions and tasks of state administrative reform in the 2016-2020 period [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Vietnamese Government (2020), Practices and Solutions to build E-Government, http://baochinhphu.vn/Xay-dung-Chinh-phu-dien-tu/Thuc-trang-va-giai-phap-xay-dung-Chinh-phu-dien-tu/354722.vgp, accessed 14th October 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Joint Circular No. 12/2011/TTLT-TTCP-VKSNDTC-TANDTC-KTNN-BQP-BCA dated December 15, 2011 of the Government Inspector, Supreme People's Procuracy, Supreme People's Court, State accounting, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Public Security [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. The United Nations Convention against Corruption, Clause 3 Article 48 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. The Law on Anti-corruption 2018, Article 52 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. World Bank - Government Inspectorate of Vietnam (2013), Corruption from the perspectives of people, businesses and officials, public servants and public employees, paras 23-50 [↑](#footnote-ref-22)