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Workshop Opening Speech:

Integrity in Judiciary: International Standards and Implications for Vietnam

Ladies and gentlemen,

The judicial system plays an important roles in justice and human rights protection, ensuring political security, social order and safety, and creating a stable environment for economic development of the country. **The system protects the law and provides a mainstay for the citizens.**

The importance of judicial system was affirmed at Politburo's Resolution No. 49-NQ / TW in 2005 on the judicial reform strategy until 2020. The Resolution has also set the goals of "Building a clean, strong, democratic, strict judiciary" and "efficient and effective judicial activities focusing on adjudication".

To reach these goals, **it is crucial that judicial agencies ensure their integrity, or in other words, their ability to prevent and fight against corruption.** This ability is built, shown and enhanced through applying the codes of conduct, the mechanisms preventing conflicts of interest; providing transparent information about judicial agencies' work, improving information accessibility of citizens; boosting independence, equity and accountability of judicial officials in general and judges in particular.

Therefore, with the hope to contribute to judicial reforms as well as anti – corruption work, Towards Transparency (TT) in collaboration with Institute for Public Policy and Law (IPL) holds the workshop on "*Integrity in Judiciary: International Standards and Implications for Vietnam*". We would like to share with policy makers, experts, researchers and judicial agencies' officials a number of theories and practices related to ensuring integrity for the operation of the judicial authorities, including the courts, the

law enforcement agencies and lawyers in Vietnam and overseas.

We hope that the workshop will be an opportunity for us to discuss related issues and **offer practical and useful recommendations for the concerned state agencies**, thereby contributes to the process of overall judicial reform and anti-corruption.

I would like to close my brief speech with the concept of "**national integrity system**" of Transparency International (TI). According to their definition and approach, national integrity system includes the key governance institutions of a nation, such as legislature, executive, judiciary, media, civil society, business, etc. Only when these institutions operate effectively, ensuring integrity, transparency and accountability, do anti-corruption efforts in particular and reforms in general come to success.

I wish you a successful workshop.

Thank you sincerely!