

# The Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals

Linking human rights with all Sustainable Development Goals and targets


Click on goal, target or instrument to expand details.

Use switch to change which column to be first.

Show first:

Targets

instruments

Goal	Target	Instrument	Article / Description
 <p>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.</p>	<p><b>16.3</b> Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.</p> <p><b>Indicators</b> <b>16.3.2</b> Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population <b>16.3.1</b> Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms <b>16.3.3</b> Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism</p>	<p><b>ACHPR</b> African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>3.1 Every individual shall be equal before the law.</p>
			<p>3.2 Every individual shall be entitled to equal protection of the law.</p>
			<p>6 Every individual shall have the right to liberty and to the security of his person. No one may be deprived of his freedom except for reasons and conditions previously laid down by law. In particular, no one may be arbitrarily arrested or detained.</p>
			<p>7.1 Every individual shall have the right to have his cause heard. This comprises:</p>
			<p>7.1.a the right to an appeal to competent national organs against acts of violating his fundamental rights as recognized and guaranteed by conventions, laws, regulations and customs in force;</p>
			<p>7.1.b the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty by a competent court or tribunal;</p>
			<p>7.1.c the right to defense, including the right to be defended by counsel of his choice;</p>
			<p>7.1.d the right to be tried within a reasonable time by an impartial court or tribunal.</p>
			<p>7.2 No one may be condemned for an act or omission which did not constitute a legally punishable offence at the time it was committed. No penalty may be inflicted for an offence for which no provision was made at the time it was committed. Punishment is personal and can be imposed only on the offender.</p>
			<p>26 States parties to the present Charter shall have the duty to guarantee the independence of the Courts and shall allow the establishment and improvement of appropriate national institutions entrusted with the promotion and protection of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the present Charter.</p>
		<p><b>ACRWC</b> African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>5.3 Death sentence shall not be pronounced for crimes committed by children.</p>
			<p>17.1 Every child accused or found guilty of having infringed penal law shall have the right to special treatment in a manner consistent with the child's sense of dignity and worth and which reinforces the child's respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of others.</p>
			<p>17.2 State Parties to the present Charter shall in particular:</p>
			<p>17.2.a ensure that no child who is detained or imprisoned or otherwise deprived of his/her liberty is subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;</p>

			17.2.b ensure that children are separated from adults in their place of detention or imprisonment;
			17.2.c ensure that every child accused of infringing the penal law:
			17.2.c.i shall be presumed innocent until duly recognized guilty;
			17.2.c.ii shall be informed promptly in a language that he understands and in detail of the charge against him, and shall be entitled to the assistance of an interpreter if he or she cannot understand the language used;
			17.2.c.iii shall be afforded legal and other appropriate assistance in the preparation and presentation of his defence;
			17.2.c.iv shall have the matter determined as speedily as possible by an impartial tribunal and if found guilty, be entitled to an appeal by a higher tribunal;
			17.2.d prohibit the press and the public from the trial.
			17.3 The essential aim of treatment of every child during the trial and also if found guilty of infringing the penal law shall be his or her reformation, reintegration into his or her family and social rehabilitation.
		<b>Maputo Protocol</b> Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa	17.4 There shall be a minimum age below which children shall be presumed not to have the capacity to infringe the penal law.
			<b>Show all articles</b> 8 Women and men are equal before the law and shall have the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure:
			8.a effective access by women to judicial and legal services, including legal aid;
			8.b support to local, national, regional and continental initiatives directed at providing women access to legal services, including legal aid;
			8.c the establishment of adequate educational and other appropriate structures with particular attention to women and to sensitise everyone to the rights of women;
			8.d that law enforcement organs at all levels are equipped to effectively interpret and enforce gender equality rights;
			8.e that women are represented equally in the judiciary and law enforcement organs;
			8.f reform of existing discriminatory laws and practices in order to promote and protect the rights of women.
			25 States Parties shall undertake to:
			25.a provide for appropriate remedies to any woman whose rights or freedoms, as herein recognised, have been violated;
			25.b ensure that such remedies are determined by competent judicial, administrative or legislative authorities, or by any other competent authority provided for by law.

	<p><b>16.4</b></p> <p>By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p><b>16.4.2</b> Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments</p> <p><b>16.4.1</b> Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)</p>	<p><b>CTOC</b> United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>Comment 1 The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime. The Convention is further supplemented by three Protocols, inter alia the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.</p>
		<p><b>ACHPR</b> African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>23.1 All peoples shall have the right to national and international peace and security. The principles of solidarity and friendly relations implicitly affirmed by the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirmed by that of the Organization of African Unity shall govern relations between States.</p>
			<p>23.2 For the purpose of strengthening peace, solidarity and friendly relations, States parties to the present Charter shall ensure that:</p>
			<p>23.2.a any individual enjoying the right of asylum under Article 12 of the present Charter shall not engage in subversive activities against his country of origin or any other State party to the present Charter;</p>
			<p>23.2.b their territories shall not be used as bases for subversive or terrorist activities against the people of any other State party to the present Charter.</p>
	<p><b>16.5</b></p> <p>Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p><b>16.5.1</b> Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months</p> <p><b>16.5.2</b> Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months</p>	<p><b>ICESCR</b> International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>2.1 Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures.</p>
		<p><b>UNCAC</b> United Nations Convention against Corruption</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>Comment 1 The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is a global legally binding international anti-corruption instrument. It requires States Parties to implement anti-corruption measures which aim at preventing corruption, including domestic and foreign bribery, embezzlement, trading in influence and money laundering. It also intends to strengthen international law enforcement and judicial cooperation, providing effective legal mechanisms for asset recovery, technical assistance and information exchange.</p>
		<p><b>Escazú Agreement</b> Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>4.3 Each Party shall adopt the necessary measures, of a legislative, regulatory, administrative or any other nature, in the framework of its domestic provisions, to guarantee the implementation of the provisions of the present Agreement.</p>
	<p><b>16.6</b></p> <p>Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p><b>16.6.1</b> Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)</p> <p><b>16.6.2</b> Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services</p>	<p><b>UNDHRD</b> Declaration on Human Rights Defenders</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>2.1 Each State has a prime responsibility and duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms, inter alia, by adopting such steps as may be necessary to create all conditions necessary in the social, economic, political and other fields, as well as the legal guarantees required to ensure that all persons under its jurisdiction, individually and in association with others, are able to enjoy all those rights and freedoms in practice</p>
			<p>2.2 Each State shall adopt such legislative, administrative and other steps as may be necessary to ensure that the rights and freedoms referred to in the present Declaration are effectively guaranteed</p>
			<p>6 Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others:</p> <p>6.a To know, seek, obtain, receive and hold information about all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including having access to information as to how those rights and freedoms are given effect in domestic legislative, judicial or administrative systems</p>
			<p>9.1 In the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the promotion and protection of human rights as referred to in the present Declaration, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to benefit from an effective remedy and to be protected in the event of the violation of those rights</p>
			<p>9.2 To this end, everyone whose rights or freedoms are allegedly violated has the right, either in person or through legally authorized representation, to complain to and have that complaint promptly reviewed in a public hearing before an independent, impartial and competent judicial or other authority established by law and to obtain from such an authority a decision, in accordance with law, providing redress, including any compensation due, where there has been a violation of that person's rights or freedoms, as well as enforcement of the eventual decision and award, all without undue delay</p>

			<p>9.3 To the same end, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, inter alia:</p> <p>9.3.a To complain about the policies and actions of individual officials and governmental bodies with regard to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, by petition or other appropriate means, to competent domestic judicial, administrative or legislative authorities or any other competent authority provided for by the legal system of the State, which should render their decision on the complaint without undue delay</p> <p>9.3.b To attend public hearings, proceedings and trials so as to form an opinion on their compliance with national law and applicable international obligations and commitments</p> <p>9.5 The State shall conduct a prompt and impartial investigation or ensure that an inquiry takes place whenever there is reasonable ground to believe that a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms has occurred in any territory under its jurisdiction</p> <p>12.2 The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration</p> <p>14.1 The State has the responsibility to take legislative, judicial, administrative or other appropriate measures to promote the understanding by all persons under its jurisdiction of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights</p> <p>14.3 The State shall ensure and support, where appropriate, the creation and development of further independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all territory under its jurisdiction, whether they be ombudsmen, human rights commissions or any other form of national institution</p> <p>15 The State has the responsibility to promote and facilitate the teaching of human rights and fundamental freedoms at all levels of education and to ensure that all those responsible for training lawyers, law enforcement officers, the personnel of the armed forces and public officials include appropriate elements of human rights teaching in their training programme</p> <p>18.2 Individuals, groups, institutions and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play and a responsibility in safeguarding democracy, promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and contributing to the promotion and advancement of democratic societies, institutions and processes</p>
			<p><b>ICCPR</b> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</p> <p><b>Show all articles</b> 2.2 Where not already provided for by existing legislative or other measures, each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take the necessary steps, in accordance with its constitutional processes and with the provisions of the present Covenant, to adopt such laws or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights recognized in the present Covenant.</p>
			<p><b>ICESCR</b> International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</p> <p><b>Show all articles</b> 2.1 Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures.</p>
			<p><b>ICERD</b> International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</p> <p><b>Show all articles</b> 2.2 States Parties shall, when the circumstances so warrant, take, in the social, economic, cultural and other fields, special and concrete measures to ensure the adequate development and protection of certain racial groups or individuals belonging to them, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. These measures shall in no case entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate rights for different racial groups after the objectives for which they were taken have been achieved.</p>
			<p><b>CRC</b> Convention on the Rights of the Child</p> <p><b>Show all articles</b> 4 States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States Parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international co-operation.</p>
			<p><b>CEDAW</b> Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</p> <p><b>Show all articles</b> 3 States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.</p>

		<b>Aarhus Convention</b> Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	<b>Show all articles</b> 6.10 Each Party shall ensure that, when a public authority reconsiders or updates the operating conditions for an activity referred to in paragraph 1, the provisions of paragraphs 2 to 9 of this article are applied mutatis mutandis, and where appropriate.
			6.11 Each Party shall, within the framework of its national law, apply, to the extent feasible and appropriate, provisions of this article to decisions on whether to permit the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into the environment.
			9.2 Each Party shall, within the framework of its national legislation, ensure that members of the public concerned
			9.3 In addition and without prejudice to the review procedures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, each Party shall ensure that, where they meet the criteria, if any, laid down in its national law, members of the public have access to administrative or judicial procedures to challenge acts and omissions by private persons and public authorities which contravene provisions of its national law relating to the environment.
		<b>Kiev Protocol</b> Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention	<b>Show all articles</b> 3.3 Each Party shall take the necessary measures to require that employees of a facility and members of the public who report a violation by a facility of national laws implementing this Protocol to public authorities are not penalized, persecuted or harassed by that facility or public authorities for their actions in reporting the violation.
			8.1 Each Party shall ensure that the information required to be incorporated in its register is publicly available, compiled and presented on the register by calendar year. The reporting year is the calendar year to which that information relates. For each Party, the first reporting year is the calendar year after the Protocol enters into force for that Party. The reporting required under article 7 shall be annual. However, the second reporting year may be the second calendar year following the first reporting year.
		<b>Escazú Agreement</b> Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean	<b>Show all articles</b> 4.3 Each Party shall adopt the necessary measures, of a legislative, regulatory, administrative or any other nature, in the framework of its domestic provisions, to guarantee the implementation of the provisions of the present Agreement.
			4.4 With the aim of contributing to the effective application of the present Agreement, each Party shall provide the public with information to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge on access rights.
			4.5 Each Party shall ensure that guidance and assistance is provided to the public —particularly those persons or groups in vulnerable situations — in order to facilitate the exercise of their access rights.
			5.2 The exercise of the right of access to environmental information includes:
			5.2.a requesting and receiving information from competent authorities without mentioning any special interest or explaining the reasons for the request;
			5.2.b being informed promptly whether the requested information is in possession or not of the competent authority receiving the request;
			5.2.c being informed of the right to challenge and appeal when information is not delivered, and of the requirements for exercising this right.
			5.3 Each Party shall facilitate access to environmental information for persons or groups in vulnerable situations, establishing procedures for the provision of assistance, from the formulation of requests through to the delivery of the information, taking into account their conditions and specificities, for the purpose of promoting access and participation under equal conditions.
			5.4 Each Party shall guarantee that the above-mentioned persons or groups in vulnerable situations, including indigenous peoples and ethnic groups, receive assistance in preparing their requests and obtain a response.
			5.18 Each Party shall establish or designate one or more impartial entities or institutions with autonomy and independence to promote transparency in access to environmental information, to oversee compliance with rules, and monitor, report on and guarantee the right of access to information. Each Party may consider including or strengthening, as appropriate, sanctioning powers within the scope of the responsibilities of the aforementioned entities or institutions.
			6.1 Each Party shall guarantee, to the extent possible within available resources, that the competent authorities generate, collect, publicize and disseminate environmental information relevant to their functions in a systematic, proactive, timely, regular, accessible and comprehensible manner, and periodically update this information and encourage the disaggregation and decentralization of environmental information at the subnational and local levels. Each Party shall strengthen coordination between the different authorities of the State.

7.2	Each Party shall guarantee mechanisms for the participation of the public in decision-making processes, revisions, re-examinations or updates with respect to projects and activities, and in other processes for granting environmental permits that have or may have a significant impact on the environment, including when they may affect health.
8.2	Each Party shall ensure, in the framework of its domestic legislation, access to judicial and administrative mechanisms to challenge and appeal, with respect to substance and procedure:
8.2.a	any decision, action or omission related to the access to environmental information;
8.2.b	any decision, action or omission related to public participation in the decision-making process regarding environmental matters;
8.2.c	any other decision, action or omission that affects or could affect the environment adversely or violate laws and regulations related to the environment.
8.3	To guarantee the right of access to justice in environmental matters, each Party shall have, considering its circumstances:
8.3.a	competent State entities with access to expertise in environmental matters;
8.3.b	effective, timely, public, transparent and impartial procedures that are not prohibitively expensive;
8.3.c	broad active legal standing in defence of the environment, in accordance with domestic legislation;
8.3.d	the possibility of ordering precautionary and interim measures, inter alia, to prevent, halt, mitigate or rehabilitate damage to the environment;
8.3.e	measures to facilitate the production of evidence of environmental damage, when appropriate and as applicable, such as the reversal of the burden of proof and the dynamic burden of proof;
8.3.f	mechanisms to execute and enforce judicial and administrative decisions in a timely manner; and
8.3.g	mechanisms for redress, where applicable, such as restitution to the condition prior to the damage, restoration, compensation or payment of a financial penalty, satisfaction, guarantees of non-repetition, assistance for affected persons and financial instruments to support redress.
8.4	To facilitate access to justice in environmental matters for the public, each Party shall establish:
8.4.a	measures to minimize or eliminate barriers to the exercise of the right of access to justice;
8.4.b	means to publicize the right of access to justice and the procedures to ensure its effectiveness;
8.4.c	mechanisms to systematize and disseminate judicial and administrative decisions, as appropriate; and
8.4.d	the use of interpretation or translation of languages other than the official languages when necessary for the exercise of that right.
8.5	In order to give effect to the right of access to justice, each Party shall meet the needs of persons or groups in vulnerable situations by establishing support mechanisms, including, as appropriate, free technical and legal assistance.
8.6	Each Party shall ensure that the judicial and administrative decisions adopted in environmental matters and their legal grounds are set out in writing
8.7	Each Party shall promote, where appropriate, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in environmental matters, such as mediation, conciliation or other means that allow such disputes to be prevented or resolved.

			9.2 Each Party shall take adequate and effective measures to recognize, protect and promote all the rights of human rights defenders in environmental matters, including their right to life, personal integrity, freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, and free movement, as well as their ability to exercise their access rights, taking into account its international obligations in the field of human rights, its constitutional principles and the basic concepts of its legal system.
			10.2 Each Party, in line with its capacities, may take, inter alia, the following measures:
			10.2.a train authorities and civil servants on environmental access rights;
			10.2.b develop and strengthen environmental law and access rights awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes for, inter alia, the public, judicial and administrative officials, national human rights institutions and jurists;
			10.2.c provide the competent institutions and entities with adequate equipment and resources;
			10.2.d promote education and training on, and raise public awareness of, environmental matters, through, inter alia, basic educational modules on access rights for students at all levels of education;
			10.2.e develop specific measures for persons or groups in vulnerable situations, such as providing interpreters or translators in languages other than official languages when necessary;
			10.2.f acknowledge the importance of associations, organizations or groups that train the public on or raise public awareness of access rights;
			10.2.g strengthen capabilities to collect, retain and evaluate environmental information.
			11.1 The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen their national capacities with the aim of implementing the present Agreement in an effective manner.
			11.2 The Parties shall give particular consideration to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States from Latin America and the Caribbean.
			11.3 For the purposes of implementing paragraph 2 of the present article, the Parties shall promote activities and mechanisms, such as:
			11.3.a discussions, workshops, expert exchanges, technical assistance, education and observatories;
			11.3.b developing, sharing and implementing educational, training and awareness-raising materials and programmes;
			11.3.c sharing experiences of voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines, good practices and standards;
			11.3.d committees, councils and forums of multisectoral development stakeholders to address cooperation priorities and activities.
		<b>European Framework Convention on Minorities</b> Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	<b>Show all articles</b> 10.2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.
		<b>ADRDM</b> American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man	<b>Show all articles</b> XXIV Every person has the right to submit respectful petitions to any competent authority, for reasons of either general or private interest, and the right to obtain a prompt decision thereon.
		<b>ACHR</b> American Convention on Human Rights	<b>Show all articles</b> 25.1 Everyone has the right to simple and prompt recourse, or any other effective recourse, to a competent court or tribunal for protection against acts that violate his fundamental rights recognized by the constitution or laws of the state concerned or by this Convention, even though such violation may have been committed by persons acting in the course of their official duties

			25.2.a to ensure that any person claiming such remedy shall have his rights determined by the competent authority provided for by the legal system of the state;
			25.2.b to develop the possibilities of judicial remedy;
			25.2.c to ensure that the competent authorities shall enforce such remedies when granted.
		<b>Inter-American Convention on discrimination against persons with disabilities</b> Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities	<b>Show all articles</b> III To achieve the objectives of this Convention, the states parties undertake:
			III.1 To adopt the legislative, social, educational, labor-related, or any other measures needed to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities and to promote their full integration into society, including, but not limited to:
			V.1 To the extent that it is consistent with their respective internal laws, the states parties shall promote participation by representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, nongovernmental organizations working in this area, or, if such organizations do not exist, persons with disabilities, in the development, execution, and evaluation of measures and policies to implement this Convention
			III.1.a Measures to eliminate discrimination gradually and to promote integration by government authorities and/or private entities in providing or making available goods, services, facilities, programs, and activities such as employment, transportation, communications, housing, recreation, education, sports, law enforcement and administration of justice, and political and administrative activities;
			III.1.d Measures to ensure that persons responsible for applying this Convention and domestic law in this area are trained to do so.
		<b>ACHPR</b> African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights	<b>Show all articles</b> 1 The Member States of the Organization of African Unity parties to the present Charter shall recognize the rights, duties and freedoms enshrined in this Charter and shall undertake to adopt legislative or other measures to give effect to them.
			26 States parties to the present Charter shall have the duty to guarantee the independence of the Courts and shall allow the establishment and improvement of appropriate national institutions entrusted with the promotion and protection of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the present Charter.
		<b>ACRWC</b> African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	<b>Show all articles</b> 1.1 Member States of the Organization of African Unity, Parties to the present Charter shall recognize the rights, freedoms and duties enshrined in this Charter and shall undertake the necessary steps, in accordance with their Constitutional processes and with the provisions of the present Charter, to adopt such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Charter.
		<b>Maputo Protocol</b> Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa	<b>Show all articles</b> 25 States Parties shall undertake to:
			25.a provide for appropriate remedies to any woman whose rights or freedoms, as herein recognised, have been violated;
			25.b ensure that such remedies are determined by competent judicial, administrative or legislative authorities, or by any other competent authority provided for by law.
			26.2 States Parties undertake to adopt all necessary measures and in particular shall provide budgetary and other resources for the full and effective implementation of the rights herein recognised



<p><b>16.7</b></p> <p>Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p><b>16.7.1</b> Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups</p> <p><b>16.7.2</b> Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group</p>	<p><b>UNDHRD</b> Declaration on Human Rights Defenders</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>2.1 Each State has a prime responsibility and duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms, inter alia, by adopting such steps as may be necessary to create all conditions necessary in the social, economic, political and other fields, as well as the legal guarantees required to ensure that all persons under its jurisdiction, individually and in association with others, are able to enjoy all those rights and freedoms in practice</p>
		<p>2.2 Each State shall adopt such legislative, administrative and other steps as may be necessary to ensure that the rights and freedoms referred to in the present Declaration are effectively guaranteed</p>
		<p>8.1 Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to have effective access, on a non-discriminatory basis, to participation in the government of his or her country and in the conduct of public affairs</p>
		<p>8.2 This includes, inter alia, the right, individually and in association with others, to submit to governmental bodies and agencies and organizations concerned with public affairs criticism and proposals for improving their functioning and to draw attention to any aspect of their work that may hinder or impede the promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms</p>
		<p>9.1 In the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the promotion and protection of human rights as referred to in the present Declaration, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to benefit from an effective remedy and to be protected in the event of the violation of those rights</p>
		<p>9.4 To the same end, and in accordance with applicable international instruments and procedures, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to unhindered access to and communication with international bodies with general or special competence to receive and consider communications on matters of human rights and fundamental freedoms</p>
		<p>18.2 Individuals, groups, institutions and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play and a responsibility in safeguarding democracy, promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and contributing to the promotion and advancement of democratic societies, institutions and processes</p>
	<p><b>UDHR</b> Universal Declaration of Human Rights</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>21.1 Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.</p>
	<p><b>ICCPR</b> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>25 Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions:</p> <p>25.a To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;</p>
		<p>25.b To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;</p>
		<p>25.c To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.</p>
	<p><b>ICERD</b> International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>5 In compliance with the fundamental obligations laid down in article 2 of this Convention, States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the following rights:</p> <p>5.c Political rights, in particular the right to participate in elections-to vote and to stand for election-on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service;</p>
	<p><b>CRC</b> Convention on the Rights of the Child</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>12.1 States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.</p>
	<p><b>CEDAW</b> Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b></p> <p>7 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:</p> <p>7.a To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;</p>
		<p>7.b To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;</p>

			<p>7.c To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.</p>
		<p><b>CRPD</b> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b> 4.3 In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.</p>
		<p><b>ICRMW</b> International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b> 41.1 Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to participate in public affairs of their State of origin and to vote and to be elected at elections of that State, in accordance with its legislation.</p> <p>41.2 The States concerned shall, as appropriate and in accordance with their legislation, facilitate the exercise of these rights.</p> <p>42.1 States Parties shall consider the establishment of procedures or institutions through which account may be taken, both in States of origin and in States of employment, of special needs, aspirations and obligations of migrant workers and members of their families and shall envisage, as appropriate, the possibility for migrant workers and members of their families to have their freely chosen representatives in those institutions.</p> <p>42.2 States of employment shall facilitate, in accordance with their national legislation, the consultation or participation of migrant workers and members of their families in decisions concerning the life and administration of local communities.</p> <p>42.3 Migrant workers may enjoy political rights in the State of employment if that State, in the exercise of its sovereignty, grants them such rights.</p>
		<p><b>UNDRIP</b> United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b> 5 Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.</p> <p>18 Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.</p>
		<p><b>Aarhus Convention</b> Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters</p>	<p><b>Show all articles</b> 1 In order to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being, each Party shall guarantee the rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.</p> <p>3.1 Each Party shall take the necessary legislative, regulatory and other measures, including measures to achieve compatibility between the provisions implementing the information, public participation and access-to-justice provisions in this Convention, as well as proper enforcement measures, to establish and maintain a clear, transparent and consistent framework to implement the provisions of this Convention.</p> <p>3.2 Each Party shall endeavour to ensure that officials and authorities assist and provide guidance to the public in seeking access to information, in facilitating participation in decision-making and in seeking access to justice in environmental matters.</p> <p>3.3 Each Party shall promote environmental education and environmental awareness among the public, especially on how to obtain access to information, to participate in decision-making and to obtain access to justice in environmental matters.</p> <p>3.5 The provisions of this Convention shall not affect the right of a Party to maintain or introduce measures providing for broader access to information, more extensive public participation in decision-making and wider access to justice in environmental matters than required by this Convention.</p> <p>3.6 This Convention shall not require any derogation from existing rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.</p> <p>3.9 Within the scope of the relevant provisions of this Convention, the public shall have access to information, have the possibility to participate in decision-making and have access to justice in environmental matters without discrimination as to citizenship, nationality or domicile and, in the case of a legal person, without discrimination as to where it has its registered seat or an effective centre of its activities.</p>

			6.2.d.vi An indication of what environmental information relevant to the proposed activity is available; and
			6.2.e The fact that the activity is subject to a national or transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure.
			6.4 Each Party shall provide for early public participation, when all options are open and effective public participation can take place.
			6.6.e An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant; and
			6.6 Each Party shall require the competent public authorities to give the public concerned access for examination, upon request where so required under national law, free of charge and as soon as it becomes available, to all information relevant to the decision-making referred to in this article that is available at the time of the public participation procedure, without prejudice to the right of Parties to refuse to disclose certain information in accordance with article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4. The relevant information shall include at least, and without prejudice to the provisions of article 4:
			6.6.f In accordance with national legislation, the main reports and advice issued to the public authority at the time when the public concerned shall be informed in accordance with paragraph 2 above.
			6.10 Each Party shall ensure that, when a public authority reconsiders or updates the operating conditions for an activity referred to in paragraph 1, the provisions of paragraphs 2 to 9 of this article are applied mutatis mutandis, and where appropriate.
			6.11 Each Party shall, within the framework of its national law, apply, to the extent feasible and appropriate, provisions of this article to decisions on whether to permit the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into the environment.
			8.a Time-frames sufficient for effective participation should be fixed;
			10.1 The first meeting of the Parties shall be convened no later than one year after the date of the entry into force of this Convention. Thereafter, an ordinary meeting of the Parties shall be held at least once every two years, unless otherwise decided by the Parties, or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within six months of the request being communicated to all Parties by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, the said request is supported by at least one third of the Parties.
			10.3 The Meeting of the Parties may, as necessary, consider establishing financial arrangements on a consensus basis.
			14.6 On the expiry of twelve months from the date of its communication by the Depositary as provided for in paragraph 4 above an amendment to an annex shall become effective for those Parties which have not submitted a notification to the Depositary in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 above, provided that not more than one third of the Parties have submitted such a notification.
		<b>Kiev Protocol</b> Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention	<b>Show all articles</b> 1 The objective of this Protocol is to enhance public access to information through the establishment of coherent, integrated, nationwide pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) in accordance with the provisions of this Protocol, which could facilitate public participation in environmental decision-making as well as contribute to the prevention and reduction of pollution of the environment.
			4.i Allows for public participation in its development and modification; and
			13.1 Each Party shall ensure appropriate opportunities for public participation in the development of its national pollutant release and transfer register, within the framework of its national law.
			13.2 For the purpose of paragraph 1, each Party shall provide the opportunity for free public access to the information on the proposed measures concerning the development of its national pollutant release and transfer register and for the submission of any comments, information, analyses or opinions that are relevant to the decision-making process, and the relevant authority shall take due account of such public input.
		<b>Escazú Agreement</b> Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean	<b>Show all articles</b> 4.3 Each Party shall adopt the necessary measures, of a legislative, regulatory, administrative or any other nature, in the framework of its domestic provisions, to guarantee the implementation of the provisions of the present Agreement.
			4.4 With the aim of contributing to the effective application of the present Agreement, each Party shall provide the public with information to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge on access rights.

		<p>4.5 Each Party shall ensure that guidance and assistance is provided to the public —particularly those persons or groups in vulnerable situations — in order to facilitate the exercise of their access rights.</p>
		<p>5.2 The exercise of the right of access to environmental information includes:</p>
		<p>5.2.a requesting and receiving information from competent authorities without mentioning any special interest or explaining the reasons for the request;</p>
		<p>5.2.b being informed promptly whether the requested information is in possession or not of the competent authority receiving the request;</p>
		<p>5.2.c being informed of the right to challenge and appeal when information is not delivered, and of the requirements for exercising this right.</p>
		<p>5.3 Each Party shall facilitate access to environmental information for persons or groups in vulnerable situations, establishing procedures for the provision of assistance, from the formulation of requests through to the delivery of the information, taking into account their conditions and specificities, for the purpose of promoting access and participation under equal conditions.</p>
		<p>5.4 Each Party shall guarantee that the above-mentioned persons or groups in vulnerable situations, including indigenous peoples and ethnic groups, receive assistance in preparing their requests and obtain a response.</p>
		<p>5.18 Each Party shall establish or designate one or more impartial entities or institutions with autonomy and independence to promote transparency in access to environmental information, to oversee compliance with rules, and monitor, report on and guarantee the right of access to information. Each Party may consider including or strengthening, as appropriate, sanctioning powers within the scope of the responsibilities of the aforementioned entities or institutions.</p>
		<p>6.1 Each Party shall guarantee, to the extent possible within available resources, that the competent authorities generate, collect, publicize and disseminate environmental information relevant to their functions in a systematic, proactive, timely, regular, accessible and comprehensible manner, and periodically update this information and encourage the disaggregation and decentralization of environmental information at the subnational and local levels. Each Party shall strengthen coordination between the different authorities of the State.</p>
		<p>6.2 The competent authorities shall endeavour to ensure, to the extent possible, that environmental information is reusable, processable and available in formats that are accessible, and that no restrictions are placed on its reproduction or use, in accordance with domestic legislation.</p>
		<p>6.3 Each Party shall have in place one or more up-to-date environmental information systems, which may include, inter alia:</p>
		<p>6.3.a the texts of treaties and international agreements, as well as environmental laws, regulations and administrative acts;</p>
		<p>6.3.b reports on the state of the environment;</p>
		<p>6.3.c a list of public entities competent in environmental matters and, where possible, their respective areas of operation;</p>
		<p>6.3.d a list of polluted areas, by type of pollutant and location;</p>
		<p>6.3.e information on the use and conservation of natural resources and ecosystem services;</p>
		<p>6.3.f scientific, technical or technological reports, studies and information on environmental matters produced by academic and research institutions, whether public or private, national or foreign;</p>
		<p>6.3.g climate change sources aimed at building national capacities;</p>
		<p>6.3.h information on environmental impact assessment processes and on other environmental management instruments, where applicable, and environmental licences or permits granted by the public authorities;</p>
		<p>6.3.i an estimated list of waste by type and, when possible, by volume, location and year; and</p>

		<p>6.3.j information on the imposition of administrative sanctions in environmental matters.</p>
		<p>6.3.z Each Party shall guarantee that environmental information systems are duly organized, accessible to all persons and made progressively available through information technology and georeferenced media, where appropriate.</p>
		<p>6.4 Each Party shall take steps to establish a pollutant release and transfer register covering air, water, soil and subsoil pollutants, as well as materials and waste in its jurisdiction. This register will be established progressively and updated periodically.</p>
		<p>6.6 In order to facilitate access by persons or groups in vulnerable situations to information that particularly affects them, each Party shall endeavour, where applicable, to ensure that the competent authorities disseminate environmental information in the various languages used in the country, and prepare alternative formats that are comprehensible to those groups, using suitable channels of communication.</p>
		<p>6.7 Each Party shall use its best endeavours to publish and disseminate at regular intervals, not exceeding five years, a national report on the state of the environment, which may contain:</p>
		<p>6.7.a information on the state of the environment and natural resources, including quantitative data, where possible;</p>
		<p>6.7.b national actions to fulfil environmental legal obligations;</p>
		<p>6.7.c advances in the implementation of the access rights; and</p>
		<p>6.7.d collaboration agreements among public, social and private sectors.</p>
		<p>6.7.z Such reports shall be drafted in an easily comprehensible manner and accessible to the public in different formats and disseminated through appropriate means, taking into account cultural realities. Each Party may invite the public to make contributions to these reports.</p>
		<p>6.10 Each Party shall ensure that consumers and users have official, relevant and clear information on the environmental qualities of goods and services and their effects on health, favouring sustainable production and consumption patterns.</p>
		<p>6.12 Each Party shall take the necessary measures, through legal or administrative frameworks, among others, to promote access to environmental information in the possession of private entities, in particular information on their operations and the possible risks and effects on human health and the environment.</p>
		<p>7.1 Each Party shall ensure the public's right to participation and, for that purpose, commits to implement open and inclusive participation in environmental decision-making processes based on domestic and international normative frameworks.</p>
		<p>7.2 Each Party shall guarantee mechanisms for the participation of the public in decision-making processes, revisions, re-examinations or updates with respect to projects and activities, and in other processes for granting environmental permits that have or may have a significant impact on the environment, including when they may affect health.</p>
		<p>7.3 Each Party shall promote the participation of the public in decision-making processes, revisions, re-examinations or updates other than those referred to in paragraph 2 of the present article with respect to environmental matters of public interest, such as land-use planning, policies, strategies, plans, programmes, rules and regulations, which have or may have a significant impact on the environment.</p>
		<p>7.4 Each Party shall adopt measures to ensure that the public can participate in the decision-making process from the early stages, so that due consideration can be given to the observations of the public, thus contributing to the process. To that effect, each Party shall provide the public with the necessary information in a clear, timely and comprehensive manner, to give effect to its right to participate in the decision-making process.</p>
		<p>7.5 The public participation procedure will provide for reasonable timeframes that allow sufficient time to inform the public and for its effective participation.</p>
		<p>7.6 The public shall be informed, through appropriate means, such as in writing, electronically, orally and by customary methods, and in an effective, comprehensible and timely manner, as a minimum, of the following:</p>
		<p>7.6.a the type or nature of the environmental decision under consideration and, where appropriate, in non-technical language;</p>

		<p>7.6.b the authority responsible for making the decision and other authorities and bodies involved;</p>
		<p>7.6.c the procedure foreseen for the participation of the public, including the date on which the procedure will begin and end, mechanisms for participation and, where applicable, the date and place of any public consultation or hearing; and</p>
		<p>7.6.d the public authorities involved from which additional information on the environmental decision under consideration can be requested and the procedure for requesting information.</p>
		<p>7.7 The public's right to participate in environmental decision-making processes shall include the opportunity to present observations through appropriate means available, according to the circumstances of the process. Before adopting the decision, the relevant public authority shall give due consideration to the outcome of the participation process.</p>
		<p>7.8 Each Party shall ensure that, once a decision has been made, the public is informed in a timely manner thereof and of the grounds and reasons underlying the decision, including how the observations of the public have been taken into consideration. The decision and its basis shall be made public and be accessible.</p>
		<p>7.9 The dissemination of the decisions resulting from environmental impact assessments and other environmental decision-making processes in which the public has participated shall be carried out through appropriate means, which may include written, electronic or oral means and customary methods, in an effective and prompt manner. The information disseminated shall include the established procedure to allow the public to take the relevant administrative and judicial actions.</p>
		<p>7.10 Each Party shall establish conditions that are favourable to public participation in environmental decision-making processes and that are adapted to the social, economic, cultural, geographical and gender characteristics of the public.</p>
		<p>7.11 When the primary language of the directly affected public is different to the official languages, the public authority shall ensure that means are provided to facilitate their understanding and participation.</p>
		<p>7.12 Each Party shall promote, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic legislation, public participation in international forums and negotiations on environmental matters or with an environmental impact, in accordance with the procedural rules on participation of each forum. The participation of the public at the national level on matters of international environmental forums shall also be promoted, where appropriate.</p>
		<p>7.13 Each Party shall encourage the establishment of appropriate spaces for consultation on environmental matters or the use of those that are already in existence in which various groups and sectors are able to participate. Each Party shall promote regard for local knowledge, dialogue and interaction of different views and knowledge, where appropriate.</p>
		<p>7.14 The public authorities shall make efforts to identify and support persons or groups in vulnerable situations in order to engage them in an active, timely and effective manner in participation mechanisms. For these purposes, appropriate means and formats will be considered, in order to eliminate barriers to participation.</p>
		<p>7.15 In the implementation of the present Agreement, each Party shall guarantee that its domestic legislation and international obligations in relation to the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities are observed.</p>
		<p>7.16 The public authority shall make efforts to identify the public directly affected by the projects or activities that have or may have a significant impact on the environment and shall promote specific actions to facilitate their participation.</p>
		<p>7.17 With respect to the environmental decision-making processes referred to in paragraph 2 of the present article, as a minimum, the following information shall be made public:</p>
		<p>7.17.a a description of the area of influence and physical and technical characteristics of the proposed project or activity;</p>
		<p>7.17.b a description of the main environmental impacts of the project or activity and, as appropriate, the cumulative environmental impact;</p>
		<p>7.17.c a description of the measures foreseen with respect to those impacts;</p>
		<p>7.17.d a summary of (a), (b) and (c) of the present paragraph in comprehensible, non-technical language;</p>

			<p>7.17.e the public reports and opinions of the involved entities addressed to the public authority related to the project or activity under consideration;</p> <p>7.17.f a description of the available technologies to be used and alternative locations for executing the project or activity subject to assessment, when the information is available; and</p> <p>7.17.g actions taken to monitor the implementation and results of environmental impact assessment measures.</p> <p>7.17.z The aforementioned information shall be made available free of charge to the public in accordance with paragraph 17 of article 5 of the present Agreement.</p>
		<b>ECHR Protocol</b> Protocol to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms	<p><b>Show all articles</b> 3 The High Contracting Parties undertake to hold free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot, under conditions which will ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature.</p>
		<b>European Framework Convention on Minorities</b> Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	<p><b>Show all articles</b> 15 The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.</p>
		<b>ADDDM</b> American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man	<p><b>Show all articles</b> XX Every person having legal capacity is entitled to participate in the government of his country, directly or through his representatives, and to take part in popular elections, which shall be by secret ballot, and shall be honest, periodic and free.</p>
		<b>ACHR</b> American Convention on Human Rights	<p><b>Show all articles</b> 23.1 Every citizen shall enjoy the following rights and opportunities:</p>
			<p>23.1.a to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;</p>
			<p>23.1.b to vote and to be elected in genuine periodic elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and by secret ballot that guarantees the free expression of the will of the voters;</p>
			<p>23.1.c to have access, under general conditions of equality, to the public service of his country.</p>
			<p>23.2 The law may regulate the exercise of the rights and opportunities referred to in the preceding paragraph only on the basis of age, nationality, residence, language, education, civil and mental capacity, or sentencing by a competent court in criminal proceedings.</p>
		<b>Inter-American Convention on discrimination against persons with disabilities</b> Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities	<p><b>Show all articles</b> V.1 To the extent that it is consistent with their respective internal laws, the states parties shall promote participation by representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, nongovernmental organizations working in this area, or, if such organizations do not exist, persons with disabilities, in the development, execution, and evaluation of measures and policies to implement this Convention</p>
		<b>ACHPR</b> African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights	<p><b>Show all articles</b> 13.1 Every citizen shall have the right to participate freely in the government of his country, either directly or through freely chosen representatives in accordance with the provisions of the law.</p>
			<p>13.2 Every citizen shall have the right of equal access to the public service of his country.</p>

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