



A Daily publication of the Sustainable Development Issues Network (SDIN)
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting

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Daily Meeting schedule

- 9.00 - 10.00 AM Strategy Session
- 10.00 - 11.00 AM Fresh Water Caucus
- 5.00 - 6.00 PM Fresh Water Caucus
- 6.30 - 8.30 PM Caucus Meeting

All meetings in Conference Room C

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Visit the SDIN morning strategy meetings for reports from working groups, information sharing and strategic discussions. SDIN Morning Meetings are open to all NGOs.

Meetings are held in Conference Room B at the United Nations Building.

Articles reflect the opinions of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SDIN Network

Taking Issue is published with financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

WOMEN AND WATER out of CSD-13?

In a recent surprising move, the CSD Bureau has removed women and water from the draft-working programme for CSD-13. Substituting women for gender is removing focus from real issues at stake.

Gender is a recognized crosscutting issue, but it is not specifically about women. Women's involvement in water and sanitation issues has been a specific part of the policy discussions within the CSD for the past years. It is therefore surprising that the CSD bureau this year has decided to take "women and water" out of the draft working program for CSD-13. During the plenary session yesterday, the women major group requested in a pointed statement that "women and water" be reinstated to appear as a major topic on the CSD-13 agenda. They further said that a fund should be created to facilitate the implementation of gender as a crosscutting issue in the ten-year work plan of the CSD. The statement caused several delegations to support the suggestion of reinstating women into the water agenda.

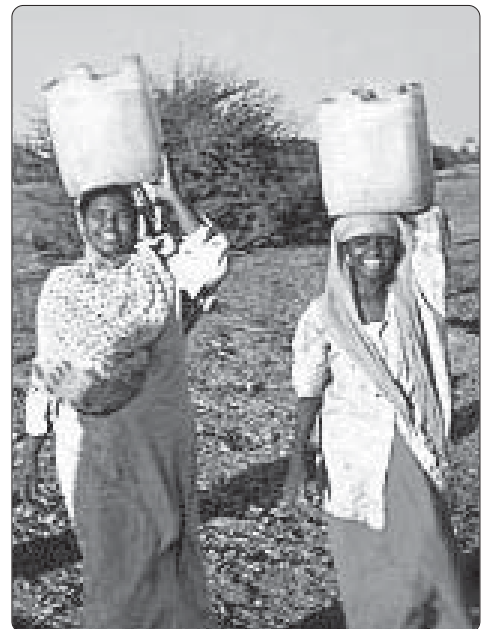
Women set the issue right

The Women major group statement made on February 28th made a number of explicit statements concerning women and water in the CSD. Quoting directly from the Women Statement:

- Reinstating women and water as a major topic in the Commission on Sustainable Development 13 agenda and

that a fund is created to facilitate the implementation of gender as a crosscutting issue in the ten-year work plan of the CSD, as agreed in CSD-11.

- Women should be considered as vital stewards who "should be recognized as active citizens with full rights including land tenure and equal access to credit business" (CSD-12 – Para 75 Part 1), and who are able to participate in the designing of an appropriate and sustainable solution to the problems related to water, sanitation and human settlements.



- Recognize that women access to water is directly related to access to natural resources, specifically land, and promote and support efforts and initiatives to secure equitable access to land tenure. (...)
- national and local governments should make clear and measurable commitments to ensure that sanitation policies are gender sensitive, by enabling the participation of women at all levels

in the policy framework process and its implementation and by involving women in the designing of sanitation facilities.

- make sure that women are ensured access to safe sanitation, including eco-sanitation. Subsidies, if necessary, should be economically and socially sound and take into account the power of relations within families. For example, sometimes cash subsidies for latrines given to men are not used for

installing latrines, which are a female and not a male priority.

- gender concerns should be integrated in the Integrated Water Resources Management Plans, and women should be fully involved in their development and implementation.

CSD should launch a gender strategy for implementing MDGs on water and sanitation.

... ida/jgs

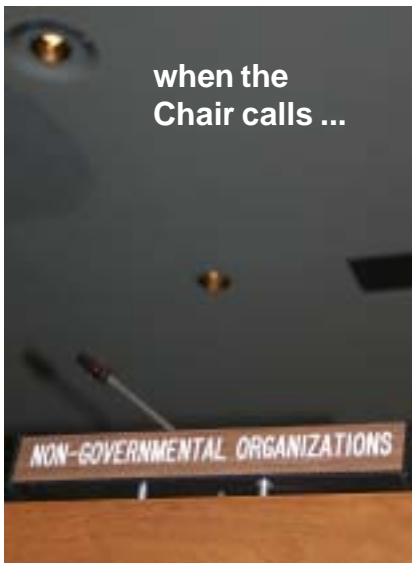
And across the hall in Conference room 2...

While the unusual manoeuvrings around women took place in Conference room 3, the UN Secretary General Kofi Anan opened the women's summit across the hall from CSD recognising the importance of women in development: "(...) study after study has taught us that **there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women**", Mr. Anan said, and continued: "No other policy is as likely to raise economic productivity, or to reduce infant and maternal mortality. No other policy is as

sure to improve nutrition and promote health – including the prevention of HIV/AIDS. No other policy is as powerful in increasing the chances of education for the next generation. And I would also venture that no policy is more important in preventing conflict, or in achieving reconciliation after a conflict has ended."

Anan also urged the entire international community to remember that promoting gender equality is not only the responsibility of women alone, it is the responsibility of all of us.

When to play the game



...you'd better be there!

During the IPM, the following entry points have been allocated in the programme to consider the contributions of the Major Groups:

Opening day: Yesterday all major groups got to read their statements on policy options and possible actions relevant to the themes of water, sanitation and human settlements.

The interactive discussions in Conference room 3 and 4, 1-4 March: Each of the thematic discussions will attempt to include at least two major group's interventions.

The CSD-13 major groups organizing partners have been asked to identify experts and match them to the topics for these interactive discussions. Major groups can also channel their interest in participating in a given session through the various issue or major groups sector Caucuses.

Based on information received from the

major groups organizing partners in consultation with the caucuses, the secretariat will compile a list of representatives interested in participating in the discussion. The list will enable the chair of a given session to call upon speakers and give them the floor upon the raising of their name sign in front of their seat.

Interventions made during these sessions should not be longer than 3 minutes.

Closing session, March 4th, Conference Room 3: Major groups will be given the opportunity to make statements of 2-3 minutes each during the Closing Plenary. The speakers will be identified by each major group.

Parallel activities: Major groups are expected to participate actively in the CSD-13 Partnership Fair programme. Major groups are also expected to actively take part in the planned side events.

For more information go to: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13majorgroups.htm

BLOCKAGE AND ACTION!

A consortium of NGOs have hereunder identified five critical blockages to reaching the goals for water and sanitation – followed by possible solutions; five priority actions to change the way things are going. Read on!

By: David Redhouse, Policy Officer, Financing the Sector, WaterAid

The need for greater progress in meeting people's rights to water, sanitation and shelter is clear. Many countries have yet to prepare and implement Integrated Water Resource Management plans. Drinking water and, especially, sanitation progress is generally poor. The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme noted 60% access to sanitation in Africa in 2000 but its later figures for 2002 showed coverage of only 43%. *

Development efforts are therefore being undermined, for women and children in particular. Waterborne diseases claim the life of a child every 15 seconds. The WHO attributes annual losses of 5.6 billion working days and 443 million school days to unsafe water and sanitation.

National water sectors need to **improve performance** on the rates at which they provide new access to safe water and sanitation by at least 50% and sometimes as much as 2000%. A consortium of NGOs – BirdLife International, CARE International UK, Green Cross International, Oxfam GB, Tearfund, WaterAid and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), has identified **five critical blockages** for which it is proposing **five priority policy actions**.

Blockage 1: Governments are failing to focus on water. Around a half of all countries are behind in developing Integrated Water Resource Management plans. Fewer

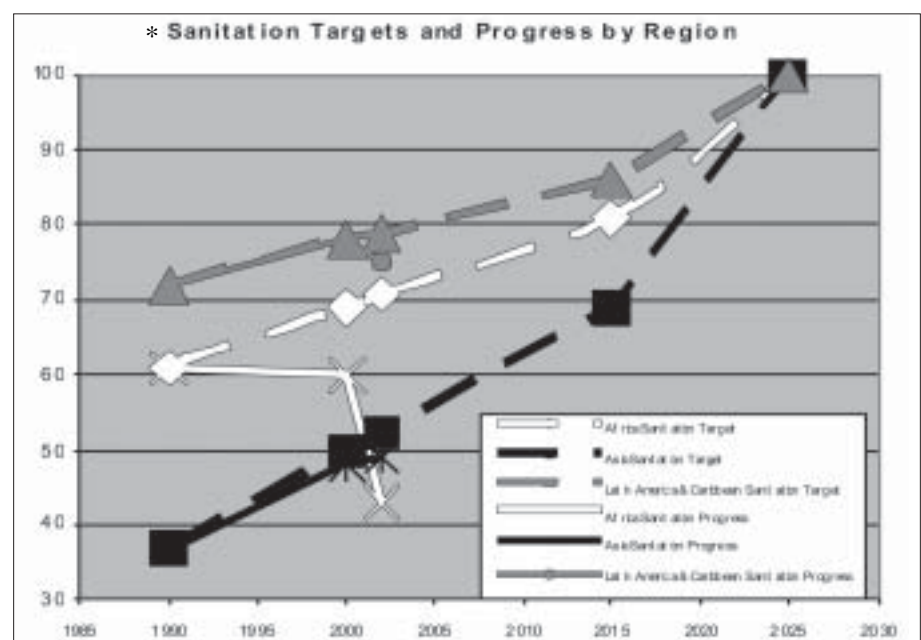
still have implemented them. As a result available water resources are rarely rationally allocated between different sectors – domestic, agricultural, energy, environment etc. Only 2 of 30 developing countries with nearly 90% of the world's 1.1 billion people lacking safe water are prioritising water in national strategies – and associated budgets - to reduce poverty. IWRM should provide an overarching, integrated and participatory framework for the sustainable delivery of all water and sanitation needs, within National Sustainable Development Strategies and Poverty Reductions Strategies.

Action 1: Reaffirm MDG 7 (ensuring environmental sustainability) and support countries which have been unable first to meet the 2005 target for IWRM plans.

Blockage 2: Limited resources for water are worsened by poor targeting. Less than 40% of aid for water goes to those 30 countries with nearly 90% of the world's 1.1 billion people lacking safe water. As a result aid to middle-income countries is worth US \$446 per person lacking safe water while the poorest countries get just US \$16 for each such person.

Action 2: Agree with other donors to give 70% of water and sanitation ODA to the least developed and low-income countries by 2008.

Blockage 3: National water sectors cannot maximise their performance where donors work "off-budget" and outside national planning systems. In the poorest countries where external



agencies provide up to 90% of water investments this prevents systematic planning to target unserved populations. In rural Malawi proper targeting could have secured the MDG by 2007. Instead the target looks likely to be reached only in 2027. In Zambia the government can sometimes track as little as 2% of sector spending.

Action 3: Agree a timetable for donor harmonisation with developing country water and sanitation plans.

Blockage 4: Despite the MDGs, resources for water have been declining. The OECD's 2004 Development Co-operation Report noted that water is not benefiting from aid increases. Its share of bilateral aid has fallen from 9% to 6% leaving these commitments at their lowest

level since 1985. Sanitation is particularly badly affected receiving in Africa only one-eighth of the investments made in drinking water even though twice as many Africans lack basic sanitation. Figures from the UN Millennium Project's *Investing in Development* report suggest that the poorest countries need external water MDGs finance of US \$4 billion rising to US \$7bn.

Action 4: Double the spending of donors and developing countries in order to meet the water MDGs, with special priority given to Africa and to sanitation.

Blockage 5: National water sector performance is further reduced by multiple funding routes – with associated application and reporting procedures - which reduce coordination and overload already limited capacity at both national

and local government levels. As many as 9 separate routes by which communities might secure funding for water have been identified. Donors have been seen to fall over each other, planning to provide water supplies in one area only to arrive and find another donor has already done the work. At the same time the potential contribution from the local private sector – which may informally be already serving nearly 50% of the population – is ignored by legal and institutional frameworks which make no provision for these entrepreneurs.

Action 5: Support the strengthening of the water sector through integrated sector wide approaches (SWAs). Specifically, 50% of African countries should have established SWAs by 2008.



HOW WILL CSD-13 MAKE A DIFFERENCE ?

The overarching requirement on CSD-13 and its stakeholders is to facilitate more action on the ground and to be accountable at that level. **How can we genuinely say to a woman living in rural Ethiopia that our discussions improve her prospects for getting sustainable access to safe water?**

Might one possibility be a “**Table of Commitments**”, a record of individual promises – with explicit deadlines – to implement any agreed policy options?

Given the fundamental importance of **national-level action** such promises could be most sensibly made in relation to specific countries, simultaneously by

the respective national government and others providing external support. This could build on existing work - for example the UN Millennium Project's proposal for 12 MDG fast-track countries this year or the agreement of the African Ministers' Council on Water and the European Union to identify lead donors for national water sector diagnoses.

The NGOs' consortium is not however tied to a particular mechanism. All that is certain is that we need concrete commitments which can be transparently monitored in the interest of real improvements to water resource management and to access to drinking water and basic sanitation for the poorest.

LOBBY POINTS FOR CSD 13

Lobby points (abridged) developed by the Freshwater Caucus Coordinators in consultation with several CSOs and NGO networks worldwide.

I. Implementation and Monitoring of Policy Actions

1. A **UN focal point (such as UN-Water or UN DESA) should be established** for tracking and monitoring IWRMs.
2. Policy actions agreed upon at CSD-13 should consider **all the cross-cutting issues** established at CSD 11 as well as **good governance**, as it is critical for effective implementation.

II. Providing Safe Drinking Water to All

3. Governments should protect, respect and fulfill their **obligations relating to the right to water**. Water security is a key to **poverty alleviation**. Water resources development, management and allocation decisions should address the traditional difficulties that vulnerable groups in society have in exercising their rights.

Access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation should be prioritized in national **constitutions, water legislations** and sustainable development strategies that ensure that:

- a. water is **protected as a common**;
- b. people have a **human right to water of good quality and affordable water services** in a locally sustainable manner to meet their basic needs (including at least drinking and cooking,

washing, and subsistence farming) and

- c. **minimum reserve is maintained** for meeting the environmental needs of water ecosystems. These should be backed by specific measurable plans for implementation.
 - d. Implementation takes place at the national, regional and local levels
4. All Governments should make **public financing** a priority for providing safe drinking water **to all to meet their basic needs**; above that gradually increasing block tariff structures should be put in place to encourage conservation practices (e.g., South Africa). Contributions "in kind" should be recognized and be part of this tariff regulations so to make water consumption affordable even for the poor.
 5. Conditions to involve marginal groups in the planning and implementation of projects to ensure **gender and culturally sensitive sanitation** in safe surroundings, should be part of the terms of reference for awarding projects and financing.
 6. National Governments need to build **stronger managerial capabilities within the public utilities** themselves where currently they are unable to meet the needs of the public.'
 7. **Public participation** (such as the Uruguay's recent national referendum on water privatization) should take place in advance of any consideration

of private sector participation and minimum criteria and conditions regarding access, affordability and quality should be met, preferably on the basis of national legislation.

Governments must regulate and oversee any involvement of private sector in water service delivery to assure the respect, protection, and fulfillment of their human rights obligations toward civil society.

III. Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

8. In developing IWRM plans, governments should ensure the following:
 - All relevant Ministries should be directly involved through **permanent inter-ministerial committees** dedicated to IWRM plans.
 - IWRM processes should evaluate the **allocation of water to agricultural production** and follow **Ecologically Sustainable Water Management** to ensure adequate ecosystem flow needs.
 - An **Environmental Impact Assessment** and **Socio-Economic Cultural & Gender Impact Assessment** should be done as standard policy and practice before undertaking any project (public or private) which involves water diversion or

- water re-allocation.
- An **inventory of surface and ground water resources**, creating baseline data and identifying water “hot spots” should be performed with the help of educational and scientific institutions.
9. Governments should enact laws and establish **regulatory frameworks** (with bark and bite) to ensure that **ground water use** is monitored stringently.
 10. Citizens should be educated on the hydrological cycle and the need for sustainable management of water resources. The right to water includes the **role of education** for present and future generations concerning hygienic use of water and sanitation.
 11. Considering that agriculture accounts for 70% of total water use, we need to improve **water use efficiency** in such a way that rural livelihood systems are not threatened. Governments should recognize the value of home gardens in providing basic nutrition to families and some income for women. Financial allocation for research on traditional dry land livelihood systems needs to be increased. **Precautionary Principles** should be applied in adopting biotechnology; independent funding should be made available for peer-reviewed research.
 12. **Subsidies** that encourage
15. Sanitation and water programs should provide public information on the **management of waste** of all kinds, including human, household, industrial, and agricultural waste.
 16. Water and water services must be kept out of **GATS**, the **WTO** and other multi-lateral and regional trade agreements.
 17. IFIs should stop imposing water privatization or ‘full cost recovery’ as a **condition for grants, new loans and renewal of loans** of developing countries. They should ensure that projects do not violate the **riparian rights of farmers and ancient water rights of communities**.
 18. The recommendations of the **World Commission on Dams** should always be increased fertilizer and pesticide use and increased water consumption need to be removed. The full cost of production, including that of water use and subsidized food crops, should be paid for by commercial agriculture and agri-food industry and incorporated into food prices.
 13. The **Polluter Pays Principle** should be applied to both industries and industrial agriculture to reduce the burden of wastewater treatment on public finances in urban areas and to maintain the quality of water in rural environments.
 14. Governments should fulfill their obligations under **Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, in water allocation decisions. They should also ensure the rights of vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, to their livelihood. incorporated into water and energy planning processes, including reparations.
 19. All the recommendations of the **World Bank Extractive Industries Review** should be implemented.
 20. The right to water transcends national boundaries, and developed nations have a duty to **assist developing nations**. The donor governments need to step up their effort towards the achievement of the **0.7% target of GDP for ODA**.
- Sustainable management of water resources is fundamental to our future, and it needs increased public funding commitments not only to water and sanitation but also to Integrated Water Resources Management. This should be the top priority of all governments.



INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) aims to see Education for Sustainable Development implemented in thousands of local situations on the ground, involving the integration of the principles of Sustainable Development into a multitude of different learning situations.

The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) will be officially launched at UN headquarters in New York in the afternoon of 1st of March 2005, by UNESCO's Director General Koïchiro Matsuura. The launch of the Decade event will be preceded in the middle of the afternoon by a round table of experts on the major challenges and objectives for the implementation of the Decade.

INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH EVENT

Expert panel discussion identifying key issues in the implementation of DESD, such as:

- 1 Gauging expectations from the Decade (issues, challenges and opportunities, etc.)
- 2 Generating support and sustaining commitments to the Decade including mobilization of financial resources
- 3 Linking ESD into the development frameworks (PRSPs, EFA plans, MDGs)
- 4 Identifying the roles/engagement of Governments, NGOs, INGOs, civil society including the private sector
- 5 Monitoring and assessment

Moderated by Prof. STEVEN ROCKEFELLER, with as panelists:

- 1 1 representative of NGOs – Dr. PAMELA PUNTENNEY, CSD Education Caucus
- 2 1 representative from the private sector – GUNTER PAULI, Entrepreneur
- 3 1 representative from UN Sister agencies – BILL MANSFIELD, former Deputy Executive Director of UNEP (to be confirmed)
- 4 1 representative from Government – Ambassador ADAMANTIOS VASSILAKIS, Permanent Delegate of Greece to the UN

When: Tuesday, 1 March 2005, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Where: UN Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 6

OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE DECADE (5:30 pm)

Interventions by:

Mr. KOICHIRO MATSUURA, UNESCO Director-General

Dr. AKITO ARIMA, representative of Government of Japan for DESD affairs

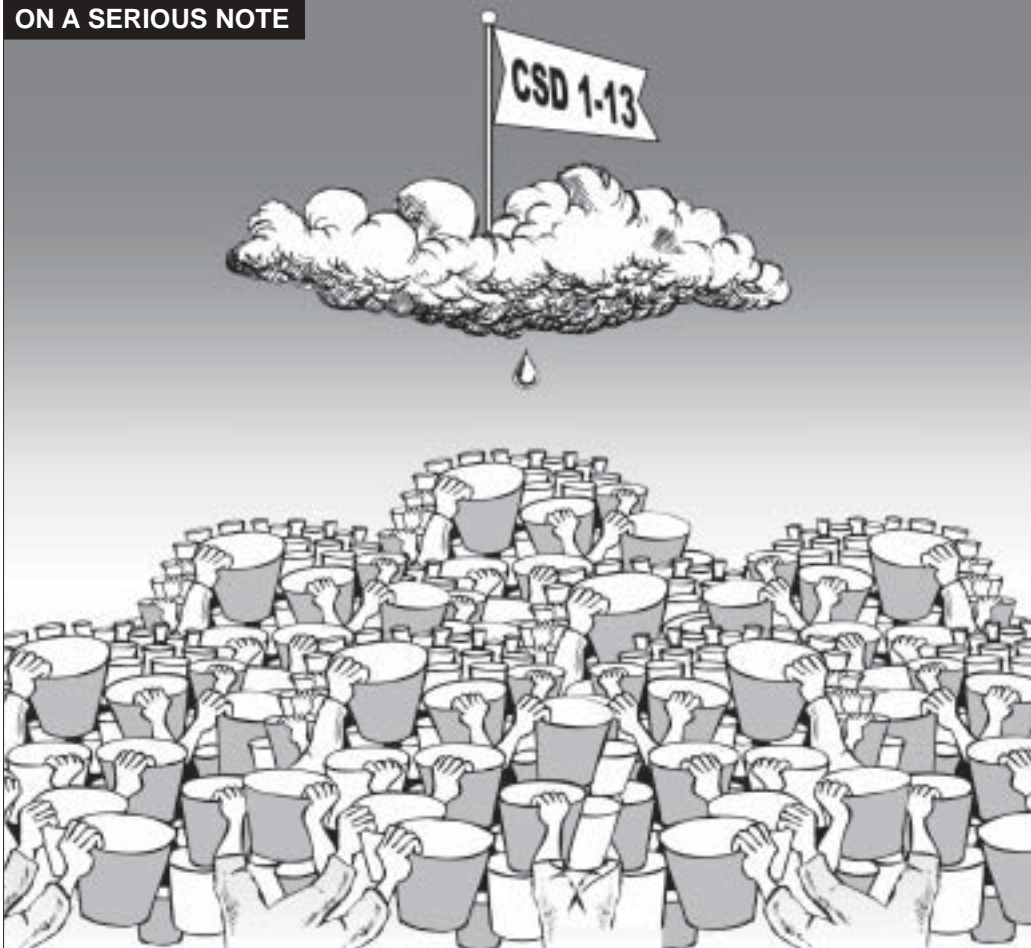
Mrs. NANE ANAN, lawyer, artist and wife of UN Secretary General Kofi Anan

Mr. BILL MANSFIELD, former Deputy Executive Director of UNEP (to be confirmed)

Prof. STEVEN ROCKEFELLER, Chairman of the Rockefellers Brothers Fund

The official launch will be followed by a **COCKTAIL** in the
Visitors Lobby of the UN Secretariat

ON A SERIOUS NOTE



Contribute to *Taking Issue*

To publish articles in this newsletter, please submit your text before 5.00 p.m. to one of the SDIN facilitating organisations' staff.

SDIN Facilitating Organisations:

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for Sustainability

TWN, Third World Network

ELCI, Environment Liaison
Centre International

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