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ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2017  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

INFORMAL HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING

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>> HOULIN ZHAO: Dear colleagues, dear friends, please take  
your seat. We are ready to start.

Very good. Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, good  
evening. I'm very pleased to start this informal meeting of head  
of delegations for World Telecommunication Development Conference  
which will open officially tomorrow. Of course, this is the  
informal meeting, but in my opinion, it's more important than the  
formal meeting. Tomorrow morning we will have head of delegation  
meeting. The issues we will discuss tomorrow, we have now to fix  
them so that tomorrow we will not take too much time to work on  
those details of the agenda we will see tonight.

I hope every one of you have a nice trip to this beautiful  
City of Buenos Aires. A very good season, we start with spring.  
I remember the last time when I was here, 2013, in August, when  
Europe enjoying very hot weather there and here it is very cold.  
I did not know that it is so cold and I suffer a lot on the  
street. It was winter, but today I am pleased to see this is the  
beautiful, wonderful weather of spring. So I hope when you have  
time and you take profit of this good time season to enjoy Latin

America's beauty.

So, ladies and gentlemen, without taking too much of your time, I would like to start with our agenda for this informal meeting for this head of delegations. I hope the secretary could put the draft agenda of the meeting on the screen otherwise you should have the agenda available to you. We have 14 items. I'm very glad to see that even we have this -- yes, please move quicker. Good. So 14 items. And this meeting also has interpretations and if you need, please take profit of this interpretation. Let me just ask if anybody has any comments or suggestions to this draft agenda. Today's draft agenda, tomorrow we will present a similar agenda to the formal meeting of head of delegation meeting. Of course, if you don't see any problem at this moment, at the end of this meeting, you can also give us advice whether we should change things.

I see nobody ask for the floor, so I would assume that this draft agenda is approved. Of course, I don't think I need to introduce you who are the colleagues or the five elected officials that are here, and they give us the ability of having us to manage the Document. So next I think we could quickly move to item 3, approved. That is proposal of the structure of the Conference. And here we have DT2. I would like to invite Rahima Asano, the Director, to give us some kind of briefings on this Document, Rahima.

>> Thank you very much, Secretary General. Good evening, everybody. Document DT2 was circulated to the meetings. As a result, it was published on the website sometime in June. So to summarize Document DT2 is proposing the creation of five committees. Five committees is not new to you. This is ITU practice. Committee one is a steering committee, committee two is a budget committee, committee three is about objectives, committee four is ITU-T working matters, and committee 5 is a committee, and we have one Working Group of the plenary on ITU-D contribution to the ITU strategic plan 2020-2023, and WTDC declaration. This is the structure proposed for the Conference. Thank you.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much, Rahima. I don't think that we have any chance to modify this structure because this is discussed, we are defined, we are prepared. I hope this is acceptable to you.

(Applause).

Thank you very much. Next according to our agenda item is item 4, that is time management, which is published in our ADM2. I invite Rahima to give us briefing on this Document, please.

>> Thank you very much, Secretary General. Again, the draft term plan, the first version was published on the website sometime ago for just what was intended for you planning your programme to know where you may want to come and when you may want to come. In this we are using what you see on the top, the blue colors or gray, I don't know, depending. For me it is blue, sometimes people say gray depending on eyeglasses, but they are in gray blue.

You have the plenaries that are in yellow, deep yellow for the plenaries, and we put the light yellow for the policy statement. We come back to that. And on Wednesday in green, you have celebration of the 25th anniversary. It has been on the Web for a while and I submit it to the Secretary General for your comment and adoption. Thank you.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. I think it is good to have different colors to mark the different groups of events to have our delegates to see easily what the event may be. For the time being, I think it's just for information. And, of course, during the course of two weeks, something might be changed. We will update this information paper. So any comment? Thank you very much.

Now, let's move to the next one, item 5. We have to elect our Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Conference. After some discussion and negotiations, I think that Rahima has a candidate ready to be submitted for this head of delegation meeting, informal head of delegation meeting for information and tomorrow for formal endorsement. So, Rahima, can you give us information on the candidate of the Chairman of Conference?

>> Thank you, very much. The Chairman will be coming from the host country. Let me inform that Argentina has nominated Mr. Oscar Martin Gonzalez to be the Chairman of this Conference and the Vice Chairman of the service by region we have Dr. Sam Kushuda from Zimbabwe, Mr. Jeferson Fued Nacif, Brazil, Mr. Nasser Al Marzouqi, UAE, Mr. Charles Punaha, Papua New Guinea, Mr. Rashid Ismailov, Russian Federation, Mr. Paulius Vaina, Lithuania.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. The undersecretary of the administration, for this Vice Chairman, six Vice Chairmen. It seems to be a little bit concerning the gender balance issue. All six candidates are men, but we have some more ladies for Vice Chairman and later for this group, this is the case. So I offer this for your observation comments. No, that's good. Thank you very much. Thanks for your understanding. Next is item 6. That is elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman of committees and Working Group of the plenary. Please continue.

>> Thank you very much. Before I go to give the name proposed, I would like to take this opportunity to really express my deepest gratitude to the telecommunication organisations that help me and the Secretary General to proceed with consultation at the legal level to facilitate, I would like to express my deepest gratitude. So for the committee to the Chairman, Ms. Helena Fernandes, the woman Chairman of committee, from Mozambique and Vice Chair Mr. Santiago Reyes from Canada, Facal Bayouli, Tunisia, Yoshiaki Nagaya, Japan and Anders Jonsson, from Sweden.

For committee three, Chairman we have Mr. Ahmad Reza Sharafat from Iran, Vice Chairman, Dr. Mustaffa Babagona from Nigeria, Stephen Bereaux, Bahamas, Mustafa Abdelhafiz, Sudan, Mr. Boris Demirkhanyan, Armenia, and Ms. Blanca Gonzalez from Spain. For committee four, we have Chairman Mr. Majed al Mazyed from Saudi Arabia. Vice Chair, you have Regina, Cote D'Ivoire, El Salvador, Mr. Kishore Babu India, Ms. Umida Musaeva, Uzbekistan, Mr. Dietmar Plesse, Germany.

And committee five you have Ms. Laredj Hassina, Algeria, Ms. Sameera Belal Momen Mohammad, Kuwait, Mr. Guolei Cai, China, Ms. Marie Humeau, U.K., Mr. Vladimir Minkin, Russian Federation, Mr. Hector Carillo Morales, Mexico. For the Working Group of Plenary on Strategic Plan and Declaration, Chairman, Mr. Fabio Bigi from Italy, Vice Chairman, South Africa, Ms. Khloud Aldosari, Qatar, Ms. Eunice Lim, Singapore, Azerbaijan.

As you could see, we are instating the balance here at the level of the Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship. We have two chairmen that are out of the old country, the four committees are two men and two women at the level of the Vice Chairman, a lot of women coming in. This is as a result of the consultation at the regional level, which is at the level of the region recognizing this issue and trying to do something about it. I thank you very much.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. We have several Vice Chairman, and we have several committees here.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson. At the outset, I'm giving you some time to be connected. Thank you once again, Mr. Chairperson, and good evening to everyone. At the outset, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to express my thanks to the Government of Argentina for hosting this Conference, the WTDC, and we hope and wish successful Conference. Mr. Chairperson, since I am Chair of the group that had prepared, there is a nomination which is a man from the Kingdom of Bahrain, and we would like to add a Vice Chair from the Arab region. Thank you for your consideration, Mr. Chairperson.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I think that we add this

name and this will be updated and submitted to the formal meeting tomorrow morning. Thank you. So I take this opportunity to introduce Professor Menke. Professor Menke is easily identified.

>> Chairman, from the RCC, we would like to clarify something about committee three with regard to the Republic of Kazakhstan. We will propose a nomination. Instead of Armenia for committee three, we are going to propose Kyrgyzstan. Thank you very much.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: I think I have trouble with my equipment, but anyhow, I understand that you would like to modify the name and I think I will leave this to secretary to fix that with you after this meeting and then we have correct names, correct title for tomorrow. Thank you very much. Any other comment? Thank you very much. So, once again, I would also like to thank our regional organisations, our regional partners who help us to find the procedure to take this task of Chairmanship of various groups. Of course, also we are understanding cooperation with the candidate of Chairman for the Working Group and committees. So it's very good. We move very fast. Next is item number 7. This is draft agenda for the first plenary meetings.

We have Document DR2. So Rahima, can you please go ahead.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Zhao. The agenda for the first plenary is now displayed on the screen. It is, this is, I would say, the kind of protocol part of our work. It is a kind of standard agenda for the first plenary that we are going to deal with organizational matters. I hope it can be shown on the Web.

This is the agenda for the first plenary. It's been at the end of the presentation as well. Can you go up after 11? By the way, we have a very good, a very good application that can use all of your mobile devices. It's ITU, and you can have all of these documents, all of this information at your fingertips. If you are going to make a presentation, that is a very good tool I'm using myself and you will receive that beyond even this kind of Document, you can find all of the publications of ITU-D at your fingertips through the mobile and you can have them everywhere. So this is -- can you go to the agenda? This is the agenda of the first plenary of the Conference. Thank you.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: I see no comment, so let's take note that for the time being we endorse the draft agenda for the first plenary. Next we will go to item 8. You know that we have a lot of, despite the heavy schedule this Conference is very important so they come to join us and in this room I see many, many, but we appreciate very much the ministers' participation, and contribution to our Conference. And, of course, when they come, they have very serious discussion of chair issues related to the

Conference and many of them prepare the policy statement and some other important messages for us.

So with our Conference limited with time, and they also important for to hear their opinions that we prepared high level segment beginning of this Conference. So I think that we have some arrangement, we have some kind of information, so I would like to invite Rahima to give us information for this part.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Zhao. As you rightly said, this is an opportunity for us also to get the insight from our policy makers at higher level. It is planned to have session for the high-level segment. We can see this is kind of, I don't know, light yellow in the color code will start on tomorrow evening, tomorrow afternoon from 2:30 to 4:00 and 4:00 to 6:30. On Tuesday we start 11:00 to 12:00 and 1430 to 1600. A reservation was made on line. We receive on line exactly the date of when the ministers and deputy ministers. We made a plan based on that, the date of the registration, the plan based on the protocol and thirdly based on the time chosen by the minister, the vice minister to speak.

Some choose Tuesday instead of Monday because of programme. So that is available on the website and each Minister of each delegation should know when the head of delegation is speaking. As you know, the decision of the Council in 2017, they are limited to three minutes, three minutes with the understanding this is considering the Document and arrangement with regard to translation or documentation productions, and we have Document published on 3. Can you go ahead with briefings on this Document?

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Zhao. You have document ADM3 was giving all of this information. I want to point out two or three items that are quite important. As you know, the translation is better in Geneva. We have a difference of timing between here and Geneva, five hours. This is for the sake of saving money, we are trying to make sure that all of the documents are submitted before 10:00 in the evening for the Document to be considered the next day. So this is what is proposed to you in this area, so the Document deposit where you have to deposit your Document is 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and it is proposed also that the Conference decides the deadline for submitting for new contributions. You propose that the deadline of proposing new contribution be the 12th of October at 2:30 p.m.

It is what is suggested in order for the Conference to work. It is proposed that from that date the Conference decides new contribution, but, of course, they will work on existing contribution. So I don't know whether I should repeat that this

meeting will be -- I think it has become a tradition in ITU that this Conference by traditional ITU is paperless and you have the application that you can synchronize on all mobile devices. You can synchronize on your computer and also with your Mac, also Mac and PC. So this is the tool we are going to use for this Conference. These are a few issues that will find more details in the Document ADM3. I will start here, Mr. Houlin Zhao. Thank you.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. I think as far as the Document is concerned our delegation is quite familiar with our requirement. Rahima highlighted that our Document is in six languages. Try to submit your documents as soon as possible to ITU secretary. Any Document submitted to us after 10:00 in the evening will have risk that the Document will not be available in six languages the next day. So it's better to, you know, speed up the preparation of the Document, submission of your Document.

Some other detail requirements that not every delegate will have concerns, but there are those who focus for their delegation to submit a Document, please come tell the secretary if you have any inquiries or anything that you would like to have further clarifications. It's better to contact us earlier rather than contact us after you submit a Document that may cause unnecessary undesired delay. Anyhow, I don't worry too much about that. Let's move to the next item. Next item, that is item list and location of Document. With DR3 here I would like to invite Rahima to give us briefings on this DR3.

>> Thank you very much again, this is allocation of Document. This is where we try contributions, actually this time we use CPI is Conference preparatory interface to deal with your contributions. We received 31 contributions coming from the countries, but because they were well coordinated at the level of the region, we have a small number of documents, but they contain 295 proposals. There is a proposal within one Document. One Document you have now several proposals. You have 293 proposals coming from the Document, so this is what you put here.

We try to allocate those proposals to the committees and the plenary. This is the way it is presented. Your Document Number in the Document, for example, the first one is Document -- I don't see, you make it too small. The first one is Document, for example, 21, the A stands for Addendum 11 and this particular proposal in Document 221 Addendum, this particular proposal will be the proposal number one you see on the right.

And this one, the proposal 9, one of this Document is allocated to plenary. Of course, this Document I must say was published late because also we received late contributions that

had to be translated before we could do this work, but still I think that you can read this Document on line and come back tomorrow with your comments to make sure we have allocated your Document properly. Thank you very much.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. Let's see what our delegates, so I open floor for any comments, suggestions for this, for list and location of documents as published in this DR3. You see, there are already comments. UAE, please.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Chairman. I'd like to thank Mr. Sanou for having introduced this Document. Secretary General, in this Document, we have a number of documents which will be submitted to the plenary. We also have a number of documents from the Arab group 21 with Addendum 29. These are modifications to question one. This Document was submitted to the plenary and also to committee three. I would like to repeat, this Document was presented to the plenary as well as to committee three. And as committee three is the committee responsible for the Action Plan, we believe that this Document should be allocated to committee three and not to the plenary because it has been allocated twice, once to the plenary and once to committee three, and we think it should be considered at committee three. Thank you.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: So you simplify our life. Instead of two, you ask to have committee three. I think that we should have no problem to accept that one. Any other comment? That's wonderful. I discussed with Rahima that for this item we may need ten minutes or more. Normally when you have a chance to see this for the first time, there is always some kind of adjustment, but anyhow, of course, if you consider that this still needs to have adjustment, tomorrow we have a chance, and even at the first plenary, we still have a chance to do some modifications, so that's good. We don't have any more comments from the floor. Next one is item -- yes, yes, please.

>> Good afternoon to all of you. Thank you very much, Argentina, for hosting the WTDC, for offering these facilities, wonderful facilities. My question is related and was raised this morning in the formal, the brainstorming we had it's DCP17 which was referred both in com 3 and com 4. Just to be sure about how can we assure the consistency between the treatment this single Document is given in both these two committees. So I think that committee three will address the questions itself, the Annex 2 to resolution 2 while committee 4 will address the main body of the resolution. So I would just like to add clarification from your side and also just the issue that we need to insure the consistency between the treatment of these, these two parts of



the ECP. Thank you very much.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. Any other comment? If no, Rahima, can you adjust this from CPT. Or UAE wanted to add, yes, please, sir. UAE.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Chairman. I do apologize for taking the floor again. As regards the comments made by Mr. Manuel on behalf of Europe group, we support what he just said and what the secretary general said, but we do believe it would be preferable for us to consider resolution 2, the Addendums to resolution 2 and then as soon as we agree on the structures for the Study Groups for ITU-D, at that point we can study the tasks which will be entrusted to each Study Group. So I think we should consider resolution 2 and then in Com 3 we can consider the various different tasks which will be given to the Study Groups. Then we can see how the debate will go in committee 4. Thank you.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Rahima, please.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Zhao. I think that our understanding was that Com 3 will work on the content of the questions linked to the objectives and it is based now on the content of the question and when committee 4 can start. In some case it will work on skeleton and that will be completed after when they get the question from Com 3. I don't think there will be a problem in the treatment as we would see it, but in any case, you have a meeting every day or every two days between the secretary of the committee and the Chairman. So we will be arranging. That shouldn't be a problem. Thank you.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. I see that this issue will be addressed with Com 3 and 4, and I don't see any major problems. Any other comment? I move too fast. Now, I see no comment. Let's move to next agenda item, agenda item 11. Public at our Conference. Once more again I invite Rahima to give us ideas and proposals.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Zhao, in accordance with the general rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, number 164, the press and the public may be present at ITU conferences in accordance with the guidance approved by the meeting of head of delegations. Accordingly, it is proposed that the press and the public be admitted to the plenary session and the standing committees and to the meetings as follows, plenary, Working Group of the plenary, preliminary session of committee 3, committee 4. That's it.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Okay. So very simple. I repeat that is plenary of the Conference, then preliminary sessions of Committee 3 and committee 4, and one exception is the Working Group of the

plenary. Is that clear? It seems to be clear. Of course, they can go to the press Conference. Thank you very much. Thank you for your understanding and endorsement. Now, we move to item number 12, that is the working hours of the Conference. Rahima, please.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Zhao. The working hours proposed are the ones we use in Geneva. I think we are all used to that. It will be from Monday to Thursday, from 9:30 to 12:30 and from 2:30 to 5:30, except on a Friday we work from 9:00 to 12:00, and from 2:30 to 5:30. Thank you very much.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. Of course, it is lighter in Geneva. Is that all right? Thank you very much. We are moving very fast. Item 13, as you know, this year is very special for this year. It marks 25th anniversary of this youngest sector of ITU. So we managed to organize some celebrations in this Conference. Rahima, please give us briefing.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Zhao. Celebration, as you know, ITU-D was created in December 1992 by the additional Conference of the ITU, and this year the ITU-D is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and we want to celebrate that here all together with starting celebration but culminating when we get together, and it will be on Wednesday in the afternoon. We have two categories of celebrations.

First, I would say intellectual celebration, and then how do you call it, the gala, is it social, it is enjoying, enjoying part of it. So we are going to have round tables on Wednesday afternoon. The first one will be ICT for SDGs, the second will be about digital economy. The Minister of Round tables are organized in the following way. We will have all of the ministers in the front room because we have got enough ministers we cannot put them on the round table in the podium. They will be sitting in the front room and they will be free to take the floor when they want on the subject matter. So, and in the evening, we are going to have the gala starting at 7 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and the gala dinner, we will recognize some of our partners with some awards. We are going to recognize also some long-serving delegates to ITU in some positions.

We have invited the former Directors of BDT. I hope they all join us to celebrate the 25th anniversary. I know two have come already, they are on committee to come and two have come already so they will be part of this for the celebration, also receiving an award for what they did, because actually, we are working on people put the foundation of this house, good to recognize them. So they are coming for that also. This is a way

it is organized very briefly, if I may. Thank you very much.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. That will be Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday evening. Okay. Let's enjoy it Wednesday. Yes, still, you have another issue, and that is under the other business. So now we move to the last item, other business. Other business is an important message we will share with you, so I invite Rahima to brief us on this last agenda item, other business. Yes, please.

>> Thank you very much. In other business, I would like to mention the opening ceremony even if not by nature other business, but it was not in the programme. We have got to mention it somewhere. The opening ceremony, we are going to have six speakers, let me put it this way, we are very privileged to have a video message from Antonio Gutiérrez, the Secretary General of United Nations, we are also very privileged to have a message from Pope Francis. Houlin met with him and he decided to convince him to give a message to this Conference because, as you know, it's very close to the technology and you look at all of this, and we are going to receive a message after the minister will speak. And then we are going to have the chief of Argentina will be the last speaker for the opening ceremony. Soon after, we are going to have the first plenary on the organizational issues and then after we are going to have the press Conference immediately after the first plenary, we are going to have press Conference to talk about what we are doing here to the world.

This is what I have in this part. Thank you very much.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. As Rahima just advised you, I was very honored, very privileged to be received by the POC in office 1st of September, so during our discussions I briefed Rahima about ITU mission, ITU mandate, ITU work, and also I advised him that we would have this WTDC in Argentina and remind him if he could kindly give us a message. And the Pope is very, very kind to us, he appreciates very much the ITU's work, and promised that he will give us a message.

Since this is informal meeting, I can't give you some informal information. He said, with one condition. I was quite nervous, and I said, what yes, father, what condition? He said please ask your Argentinian friends something very famous in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and I did not know what that means, what means Asato, and I understood that there is some kind of Babaku. So I understand this is similar to Babaku. It is very famous so I promised him that, yes, I will take it. So I promised so on your behalf, you have to take it as well.

So that is a very wonderful meeting, and he clearly supports ICT, clearly supports new technologies to encourage us

to bring the benefit of new technologies to all of the population in the planet and not leave anyone behind. So it's very, very touching meeting. So tomorrow in my speech, I will just very shortly mention this meeting and we will receive his message.

So ladies and gentlemen, I think that that is what we have prepared for this informal meeting of the head of delegation, and, of course, those proposals for the list of candidates of various positions of committee, Vice Chairs, Conference Chair and Vice Chairs, that we will take in account your comments and we will try to have our list updated. And we will present this new list at the formal meeting for head of delegation tomorrow morning. There are two proposals for allocation of Document. We'll also take care of that. Of course, during the course of first week, if you have any proposals and new ideas as far as your meeting management is concerned or some suggestions for running of our sessions, please don't hesitate to let us know.

And, of course, when you have time, I would still encourage you to pay a visit to this beautiful City of Buenos Aires, but with the latest situation in the world, the terrorist attack that could happen anywhere, any time, so I also like to invite you to pay some attentions that if there is anything you find unusual or you find some risk, please also let us know. And we work with our host country to make sure that the Conference facilities were protected and the security of our delegates are the priority of our concerns. We try to make sure.

But some kind of precautions, measures from our delegates would be also helpful that they try to help us to make sure that this Conference will be successful without any unexpected and unpleasant things. So ladies and gentlemen, I think that that's the end of this agenda, and maybe -- yes. There is still another one that is after this agenda, an announcement from Bruno Ramos that I think we are all invited after this. Yes, please, Bruno.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's just to inform that just after this final hearing, everyone is invited to the cocktails that will take place in the foyer of the Hilton Hotel. Thank you.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Yes, of course, tonight we will not talk about the allocation of secretary of ITU staff to various committees and conferences. Bruno Ramos is our secretary for the plenary session and he will coordinate with Chairman to have the plenary sessions be mostly carried out. And others we will give you Document. You may find the Document already on the Web.

Yes, please.

>> Just my attention is being drawn by the deputy here that since everything is paperless, the communication will deliver

email and then it is important that you give an email that you are reading here. Sometimes you have the email from the focal point. If one delegation would like to communicate, and with the time difference, sometimes you can miss opportunities. I know there is a lot of social events also. The invitation for the social events will be sent by email. So if with the time difference you may miss some social events, it's always good that you give an email that you are reading here for easy communication between among a delegate and between a delegate also and the secretary. Thank you very much.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. It's the end of the informal session for the head of delegation meetings, and I wish you good night, and we are invited to this cocktail reception so please enjoy that as well. And see you tomorrow. The meeting is over.

(Applause).

(Adjourned at 1936)

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