



International Conference of Information Commissioners

ICIC Report 2021-2024

ICIC REPORT 2021-2024

Content

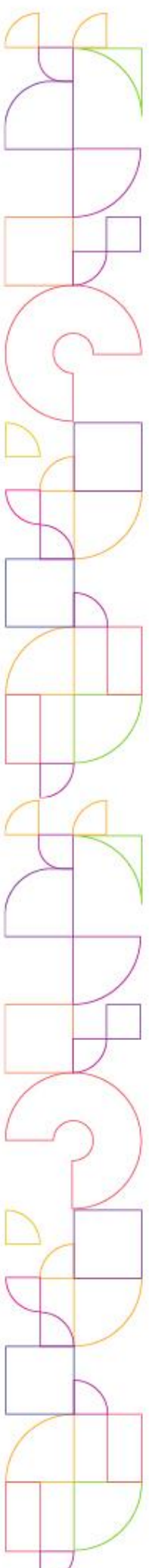
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INTRODUCTION

The National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information, and Personal Data Protection (INAI) of Mexico concludes its term at the helm of the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) for the period 2021-2024. This period has witnessed significant strengthening of international cooperation in matters of transparency and access to information.

Over the past three years, the INAI's Chair has focused on consolidating collaboration among ICIC members, fostering an environment of continuous exchange of best practices, experiences, and knowledge. This effort has resulted in a more robust and cohesive network, capable of addressing contemporary challenges posed by the digital age in terms of access to information. The responsiveness and adaptability of information commissioners worldwide have been reinforced through mutual support and coordinated efforts promoted by the INAI.

One of the most notable achievements of this period has been the increase in ICIC membership. The organization has welcomed new members from various regions of the world, reflecting growing interest and commitment from bodies responsible for transparency and data protection. This increase in membership not only broadens ICIC's reach but also enriches the exchange of perspectives and innovative solutions to common challenges.



The INAI Chair has also prioritized building relationships with international cooperation partners. Through strategic alliances with multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academic entities, ICIC has positioned itself as a benchmark in promoting and defending the right to information and privacy. These alliances have facilitated the implementation of joint projects, research, and events that have enhanced the impact and visibility of ICIC on the global stage.

Furthermore, significant efforts have been made to improve ICIC's internal communication and coordination mechanisms. The use of digital platforms and collaborative management tools has enabled more fluid and efficient interaction among members, which has been crucial for maintaining the continuity of activities and projects, especially in the context of a global pandemic.

In June 2021, the first Executive Committee of the ICIC was formed, made up of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner of Albania, the Information Commissioner Office of Bermuda, the Comptroller General of the Union of Brazil, the Council for the Transparency of Chile, the Administrative Justice Commission of Kenya, the Information Regulator of South Africa, the Government Information Services Office of the United States of America, and the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection of Mexico as Chair-Secretariat. With the above, a stage began aimed at consolidating the Johannesburg Charter.

Within this framework, the following were defined as strategic priorities:

1. Build the ICIC´s capacity and capability to carry out its mission and vision
2. Widen membership
3. Investigate options to develop financial sustainability
4. Demonstrate global leadership in access to public information rights
5. Enable communication between members and publication of information about access to public information rights
6. Undertake a comparative assessment of the needs of different geographic regions in protecting and promoting access to public information

This report describes the main actions and results obtained after three years of intense collaborative work within the ICIC. Among the most notable actions it is possible to mention the three Public Statements approved, the configuration of working groups, two election processes, as well as an amendment to the Johannesburg Charter.

Likewise, the results of four annual conferences are included:

- In 2021, the XII ICIC hosted by the CGU of Brazil, which was developed in virtual format.
- In 2022, the XIII ICIC hosted by the INAI of Mexico and developed in hybrid format.
- In 2023, the IV ICIC hosted by the Philippine Freedom of Information Programs Office and developed in hybrid format.
- In 2024, the XV ICIC hosted by the Information and Data Protection Commissioner of Albania and developed in hybrid format.

The activities of the ICIC Executive Committee, collaboration with cooperation partners, particularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are also presented.

In summary, the 2021-2024 period under the INAI´s Chair has been a time of remarkable progress and strengthening for ICIC. International cooperation, increased membership, and stronger ties with strategic partners have been the fundamental pillars of this administration, consolidating a more united and effective global network in promoting transparency and personal data protection. As the INAI concludes its mandate, it leaves behind a legacy of collaboration and advancement that will continue to benefit the international community of information commissioners in the years to come.

The document begins with a brief number, followed by an account of the main tasks of the Secretariat and the activities in the Conferences of the period 2021-2024; finally, a section corresponding to the 28 new ICIC memberships is presented.

NUMBERS

- ✓ The Executive Committee of the ICIC met 22 times.

- ✓ Three Public Statement were approved.

- ✓ Four calls were launched for the application of Host the XIV, XV, XVI and XVII Editions of the ICIC.

- ✓ Two calls were launched to renew the Chair-Secretariat and six seats on the Executive Committee.

- ✓ The process to Amend the Johannesburg Charter was launched.

- ✓ 24 new memberships and five observer members were accepted.

- ✓ The Planning Committees of the XIII, XIV and XV ICIC were integrated, which met five, ten and ten times, respectively.

- ✓ Six exploratory surveys were launched as part of the activities of the ICIC working groups.

SECRETARIAT MAIN ACTIVITIES

2021

- During the second half of 2021, the Office of the Information Commissioner of the United Kingdom transferred the Chair and Secretariat to the INAI.
- As part of the cooperation actions between UNESCO and ICIC, during the month of August 2021, the ICIC Secretariat coordinated, received and sent to the UNESCO consultant the comments and perspectives of the members of the ICIC Executive Committee on the document "The Universal Periodic Review and its potential to promote access to information. Guidelines for Information Commissioners".
- As part of the celebrations of the [International Day for Universal Access to Information 2021](#), UNESCO and ICIC coordinated the panel entitled "*The importance of independence and efficiency in oversight bodies and the legal framework*" whose objective was to discuss the methods of handling appeals to requests for information, the application of compliance with regulatory guarantees in the matter, as well as transparency and proactive disclosure as key elements to establish efficient laws, share best practices and discuss examples that demonstrate the social utility of the guarantor bodies.
- In September 2021, in coordination with the ICIC Executive Committee, a joint statement was issued in solidarity with the Afghanistan Access to Information Commission, its members and the entire Afghan community. This communiqué emphasized the

importance of joining forces and continuing to work to increase the quality of our democracies, protect human rights, empower the population, and translate the right to know for the benefit of our societies.

- As part of the activities of the XII Edition of the ICIC, the CGU in coordination with the ICIC Secretariat held eight open sessions:
 - Transparency and Trust in Times of Pandemic
 - Blurred boundaries in access to information: home office and file management
 - Privacy and transparency in health issues
 - Access to Information and Freedom of the Press
 - Challenges of Digital Transparency. Governments: Public administration transparency in the use of Artificial Intelligence
 - State secret
 - Interaction between data protection and access to information
 - Environmental Information and Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration

The open sessions are [available on the ICIC website](#) in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

In addition, three workshops were held:

- Transparency by Design
- Access to Information and Public Services
- Transparency, Gender and Vulnerable Groups

It should be noted that, as a result of the transparency by design workshop, the creation of the transparency by design working group has been promoted.

2022

- On March 9, 2022, in collaboration with UNESCO and the Carter Center, the webinar ***Promoting Gender Equity in the Right of Access to Information*** was held, with the aim of creating a space to discuss international and national recommendations to develop and promote gender-sensitive laws, policies, and implementation processes on access to information.

This activity is also [available on the ICIC YouTube](#) in English, French and Spanish versions.

- Following the experience of the XI Edition of the ICIC, for the XIII Edition of the ICIC, February 17, 2022, a Planning Committee group was formed composed of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner of Albania, the Administrative Justice Commission of Kenya and the Information Regulator of South Africa. This group has contributed to coordinating efforts and enriching the work for the realization of the XIII Edition of the ICIC in the City of Puebla, Mexico.
- On February 21, 2022, the Call for the selection process of the XIV and XV Editions of the ICIC was launched. For this reason, an Evaluation Panel was formed by the CGU of Brazil, the Administrative Justice Commission of Kenya and the Information Regulator of South Africa. At the close of the call, applications were received from the Freedom of Information - Program Management Office, Presidential Communications Office of the Philippines and the Information and Data

Protection Commissioner of Albania to organize the XIV and XV Editions of the ICIC, respectively.

- In May 2022, the first meeting of the new ICIC working groups was convened. The main purpose of this meeting was to elect the coordinators of each group and, within the framework of the XIII Edition of the ICIC, the membership will be invited to join these tasks.
 - Transparency by Design, coordinated by the CGU of Brazil and ICO of the United Kingdom.
 - Training, coordinated by the INAI of Mexico.
 - Gender and vulnerable groups, coordinated by the guarantor body of access to information of the City of Buenos Aires and the CGU of Brazil.
 - Law Cases, coordinated by the INAI of Mexico.

- From June 22 to 24, 2022, the XIII Edition of the ICIC was held in the City of Puebla, Mexico, whose central theme was "Access to information, participation and inclusion in the Digital Age". The Conference was held in a hybrid format (virtual and face-to-face) and was divided into three days of sessions. On Day 1, June 22, 2022, the Open Session took place, in which Keynote Presentations and Discussion Tables were held that revolved around the central theme of the Conference. On Day 2, June 23, 2022, ICIC members and attendees participated in workshops and regional sessions of the different access to information networks to which they belong. On Day 3, June 24, 2022, the Closed Session of the Conference was held in which reports were discussed and strategies to be followed in the coming years for the ICIC were outlined. Open sessions are available on the [ICIC YouTube channel](#).

- The Public Statement "[Access to information as a milestone of the digital age to guarantee human rights, the inclusion of groups in situations of vulnerability and the strengthening of democratic institutions in the 21st century](#)" was presented and approved.
- As part of the celebrations of the [International Day for Universal Access to Information 2022](#), held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, ICIC in coordination with UNESCO participated in the panel entitled "The role of e-government and artificial intelligence in promoting inclusive approaches to access to information" this panel defined the role of e-governance and artificial intelligence, exploring how to turn them into an ally to promote inclusive approaches to access to information.
- The four ICIC Working Groups (Transparency by Design, Training, Law Cases and Gender and Groups in Vulnerable Situations) defined their terms of reference. In this regard, each Working Group prepared and launched an exploratory survey with the purpose of collecting evidence and information on the experiences shared in these four areas.

2023

- Following the experience of the XI and XIII Editions of the ICIC, as of January 26, 2023, the work of the Planning Committee of the XIV ICIC began, this group was made up of the Commissioner of Information and Data Protection of Albania, the Information Bureau of the Philippines and the INAI of Mexico. Over the course of nine sessions, this Committee contributed to coordinating efforts and enriching the work for the realization of the XIV Edition of the ICIC in the City of Manila, Philippines.

- On January 30, 2023, the Call for the selection process of the XVI Edition of the ICIC was launched. This implied the integration of an Evaluation Panel, this panel was made up of Albania, the South African Information Regulator and the INAI. At the close of the call, the nomination of the German Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information was received as the host authority of the XVI Edition of the ICIC (2025). In this sense, the Evaluation Panel favorably approved the candidacy, so the Executive Committee agreed to announce the Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information of Germany as host of the XVI Edition of the ICIC during the Closed Session, in Manila, Philippines.
- On January 31, 2023, the call for applications to fill four seats on the ICIC Executive Committee was launched. Nominations were received from nine authorities (Guarantor Body of the Right of Access to Information of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Information Commission of Bangladesh, Information Commissioner's Office of Bermuda, Ethiopian Ombudsman Institution, Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information of Germany, Administrative Justice Commission of Kenya, Information and Privacy Agency of Kosovo, Malawi Human Rights Commission and Information Regulator of South African). The electronic voting process began on May 16, 2023 and closed on June 18, 2023. The results were presented during the Closed Session of the XIV Edition of the ICIC in Manila, Philippines.
- The process of amending the Johannesburg Charter was opened. Which includes the section of "Regional networks" and three numerals. As of June 6, the electronic voting process began and closed on June 18.

The results were presented at the Closed Session of the XIV Edition of the ICIC in Manila, Philippines.

- From June 19 to 21, 2023, the XIV Edition of the ICIC was held in the City of Manila, Philippines, whose central theme was "Linking information among nations: concretizing the global role of access to information for the preservation of democracy, inclusion and development". The Conference was held in a hybrid format (virtual and face-to-face) and was divided into three days of sessions. On June 1, 19, 2023, the Open Session took place, in which Keynote Presentations and Round Tables were held that revolved the main theme of the Conference. On June 2, 20, 2023, ICIC members and attendees participated in workshops and regional sessions of the different access to information networks to which they belong. On June 3, 21, 2023, the Closed Session of the Conference was held in which reports were discussed and strategies to be followed in the coming years for the ICIC were outlined. Open sessions are available on the [ICIC YouTube channel](#).
- Likewise, the public statement entitled "[Bridging Information Across Nations: Concretizing the Global Role of Access to Information for the Democratic Preservation, Inclusivity, and Development](#)" was presented and approved. And the findings of the four exploratory surveys were presented within the framework of the activities of the four ICIC working groups.
- Within the framework of the XIV ICIC, the Memorandum of Understanding was renewed, which has made it possible to underpin collaboration in areas of special interest between both bodies, such as:

- Monitoring and strengthening the implementation of laws and policies on access to information, incorporating a gender approach and respect for the rights of groups in vulnerable situations.
 - The promotion and training of guarantor bodies on issues of Open Access to Scientific Information;
 - Capacity building to create, access, reuse, adapt and redistribute Open Educational Resources, and
 - The design and implementation of policies and initiatives for transparency by design and regulation in the field of digital platforms.
- As part of the celebrations of the International Day for Universal Access to Information 2023, held in Oxford, United Kingdom, and entitled "The importance of the online space for access to information", the ICIC together with the Judiciary Symposium organized the panel *Perspective of judicial and information regulators on Internet accessibility and connectivity*.

2024

- Following the experience of the XI, XIII and XIV Editions of the ICIC, as of January 26, 2024, the work of the Planning Committee of the XV ICIC began, this group was made up of the following authorities:
 - The Office of the Data Protection and Information Commissioner of Albania;
 - The Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information of Germany;
 - The Guarantor Body of the Right of Access to Information of the Government of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentina;
 - The Information Regulator of South African;

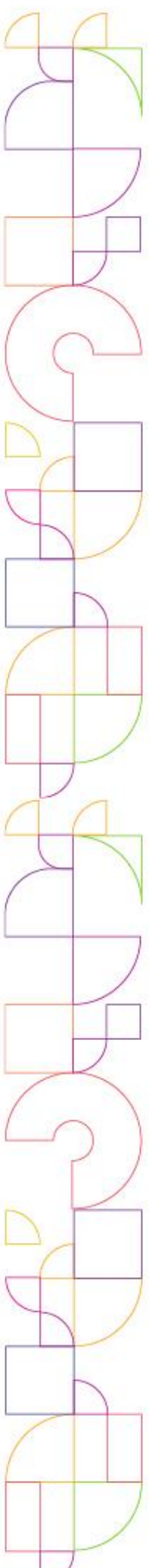
- The Freedom of Information Program Office of the Philippines;
- The Information Commissioner's Office, United Kingdom; and
- The National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection of Mexico;

Over the course of 10 sessions, this Committee contributed to coordinating efforts and enriching the work for the realization of the XV Edition of the ICIC in the City of Tirana, Albania.

- On January 26, 2024, the Call for the selection process of the XVII Edition of the ICIC was launched. This implied the integration of an Evaluation Panel, this panel was made up of
 - The Information Commission of Bangladesh;
 - The Information Regulator of South African;
 - The Freedom of Information Program Office of the Philippines;

At the close of the call, the nomination was received from the Right to Access Information Commission of Sierra Leone. as the host authority of the XVII Edition of the ICIC (2025). In this sense, and after receiving additional information from the applicant authority, the Evaluation Panel favorably approved the candidacy so the Executive Committee agreed to announce the Commission on the Right to Access Information Commission of Sierra Leone as host of the XVII Edition of the ICIC during the Closed Session, in Tirana, Albania.

- On January 30, 2024, the call for nominations for the Chair-Secretariat and to occupy two seats on the Executive Committee of the ICIC was launched. Nominations were received from two authorities for the Chair-Secretariat (the INAI of Mexico and the Right to Access Information Commission of Sierra Leone) and six nominations for seats on the Executive Committee (the Information Commissioner of

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Scotland, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Office of the Information Commissioner of Australia, the Office the Office of Information Services of the Government of the United States of America, the Commission for Access to Administrative Documents of France and the Commission for Administrative Justice of Kenya). The electronic voting process began on May 2, 2024 and closed on June 2, 2024. The results were presented during the Closed Session of the XV Edition of the ICIC in Tirana, Albania.

- Likewise, the public statement entitled [“Transparency and digital age: the information commissioner’s role and citizen empowerment”](#) was presented and approved.
- For their part, the ICIC working groups concluded the following activities:
 - Transparency by Design
 - Report of Findings. This Report presents the measures implemented by jurisdictions regarding the transparency commitments contained in legislation and aims to contribute to the development of a taxonomy of good practices to guide governments and information commissioners to adopt solutions that achieve better accountability and transparency and promote, or to allow greater citizen participation in public discourse. The findings of this Report represent a snapshot of the wealth of information and the many initiatives and programs that ICIC members have.
 - Principles of Transparency by Design. These Principles are aimed at helping authorities comply with the general principle and to take advantage of the benefits of openness and transparency, such as

increasing public trust, helping to promote efficiency in the provision of public services, as well as fighting corruption and mismanagement.

- Training

- Training Report. This Report allows us to know what are the training needs, tools and instrumental capacities that will allow us to focus on training actions.

- Gender and vulnerable groups

- Analysis of promising practices and experiences in access to information in vulnerable groups. This Analysis is a synthesis of the information collected in the surveys, presents promising practices and experiences reported by the Access to Information authorities. It establishes the challenges encountered both in the implementation of these practices and in the experiences. And it points to the development of the activities, recommendations and conclusions of the Working Group.

- Mechanisms for evaluating or monitoring surveys. This survey aims to collect data on the mechanisms for evaluating or monitoring practices that promote the right of access to information for groups in vulnerable situations.

- Law Cases

- Legal Systems Report. This Report presents the common points and diversity in the construction of Access to Information resolutions that will allow us to issue non-binding administrative criteria.

- Relevant Cases. This activity integrates a compilation of relevant resolutions on Access to Information with the overall goal of increasing innovation. These efforts aim to share knowledge and exchange best practices.

NEW MEMBERS

From June 2021 to June 2024, the ICIC Secretariat has received 29 applications for new ICIC memberships. Once each of the applications has been analyzed, the Executive Committee has been recommended to join and it has approved the incorporation of the following authorities:

<p>Access to Information Commission of Quebec, Canada</p>	
<p>Right to Information Commission of Ghana</p>	
<p>Institute for Transparency, Access to Public Information, Personal Data Protection and Accountability of Mexico City, Mexico</p>	
<p>Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, Canada</p>	
<p>Information Commissioner of the Republic of Croatia</p>	
<p>Institute for Transparency, Access to Public Information and Personal Data Protection of the State of Puebla, Mexico</p>	
<p>Court for Transparency and Access to Public Information of Peru</p>	
<p>Commission of Access to Information of Interest and Public Documents of Ivory Coast</p>	
<p>Ethiopian Institution Ombudsman</p>	

Malawi Human Rights Commission



Institute for Transparency, Public Information and Personal Data Protection of the State of Jalisco, Mexico



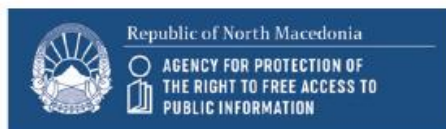
African Parliament of Civil Society (observer)



National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information of Panama



Agency for Protection of the Right of Free Access to Public Information of the Republic of North Macedonia



European Ombudsman



Pakistan Information Commission



Information and Privacy Agency of Kosovo



Personal Data Protection Service of Georgia (observer)



Information Commissioner Office of Maldives



Ombudsman of Ecuador



Information Commissioner of the Republic of Slovenia	 INFORMATION COMMISSIONER
Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan	THE COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN OMBUDSMAN 
Right to Information Commission of Sri Lanka	 ශ්‍රී ලංකා තොරතුරු සහතික කිරීමේ අධිකාරියේ විධිවිධාන සඳහා இலங்கை தகவல்துறை அமைச்சரவை ஆளுகைக்கு RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA
Public Information Noble of Ethiopia (observer)	 PUBLIC INFORMATION NOBLE Information is Key
Commission for Access to Administrative Documents of France	 Cada Commission d'accès aux documents administratifs
Bangladesh NGO Network for Radio and Communication (observer)	 BNNRC Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication 20 years Preparing for the Future of Media Development in the 4th Industrial Revolution Consultative Status with UN ESCAP/IOC UN Women Peace Winner & Champions
Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights	 Омбудсман України Ombudsman of Ukraine
Personal Data Protection of Malaysia (observer)	 JAKAM PERLINDUNGAN DATA PERSEKUTUAN
Advisory Board on Public Access and Information Management, Netherlands	 Adviescollege Openbaarheid en Informatiehuishouding

With the above, the ICIC is made up of 88 members from 57 countries and local jurisdictions. As well as five observers. In this sense, a global expansion of the ICIC is shown for the benefit of the promotion of access to information.

In summary, during this period, important events and discussion forums have been held, allowing ICIC members to address emerging issues and share effective strategies. These activities have been fundamental in developing more robust policies and regulations tailored to current needs. Continuous training and education of information commissioners have also been a priority, with the implementation of training programs and specialized workshops that have strengthened the institutional and technical capacities of member organizations.

The INAI's commitment to promoting transparency and access to information has been reflected in its inclusive and proactive leadership. Under its Chair, ICIC has promoted the inclusion of diverse perspectives and the active participation of all its members, fostering an environment of cooperation and solidarity. This management has left a lasting mark on ICIC, laying the groundwork for a stronger organization prepared to face future challenges.

ICIC CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

TWITTER
[@IcicNet](https://twitter.com/IcicNet)

YOUTUBE
[ICIC - Information Commissioners](https://www.youtube.com/ICIC-InformationCommissioners)

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