



# General Assembly

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## Sixty-eighth session

## Second Committee

Agenda item 23 (b)

### **Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development**

#### **Fiji: \* draft resolution**

#### **Women in development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [52/195](#) of 18 December 1997, [54/210](#) of 22 December 1999, [56/188](#) of 21 December 2001, [58/206](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/248](#) of 22 December 2004, [60/210](#) of 22 December 2005, [62/206](#) of 19 December 2007, [64/217](#) of 21 December 2009 and [66/216](#) of 22 December 2011, and all its other resolutions on the integration of women in development, and the relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including the Declaration adopted at its forty-ninth session,<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming* the Beijing Declaration<sup>2</sup> and Platform for Action<sup>3</sup> and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,<sup>4</sup>

*Reaffirming also* the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,<sup>5</sup> the 2005 World Summit,<sup>6</sup> the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>7</sup> and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated

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\* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>5</sup> See resolution 55/2.

<sup>6</sup> See resolution 60/1.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.



implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Reaffirming further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>5</sup> which affirms that the equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured, and calls for, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as being effective in and essential to eradicating poverty and hunger, combating diseases and stimulating development that is truly sustainable,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>8</sup> and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,<sup>9</sup> the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,<sup>10</sup> the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,<sup>11</sup> and the outcomes of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,<sup>12</sup> the high-level meeting on HIV and AIDS,<sup>13</sup> the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,<sup>14</sup> the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries<sup>15</sup> and the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs,<sup>16</sup>

*Taking note* of the agreed conclusions adopted during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in which Member States committed to taking measures to ensure that all workplaces are free from discrimination, exploitation, violence, and sexual harassment and bullying,<sup>17</sup>

*Welcoming* the strengthening of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in respect of its structures, capacities and experience on how to achieve its mandate,

*Noting* the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies, in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

*Reaffirming* that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women

<sup>8</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>9</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

<sup>11</sup> Resolution 63/303, annex.

<sup>12</sup> See resolution 65/1.

<sup>13</sup> Resolution 65/277, annex.

<sup>14</sup> Resolution 66/2, annex.

<sup>15</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chaps. I and II.

<sup>16</sup> See resolution 63/1.

<sup>17</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 7 (E/2013/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained and inclusive economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

*Recognizing* the fact that women and men should have equal access to opportunities to acquire job skills, as well as to worker protections,

*Reaffirming* the provision concerning access to full and productive employment, decent work and social protection for all in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and calling upon States to adopt forward-looking macroeconomic policies that promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development,

*Recognizing* that access to basic affordable health care, preventive health-care information and the highest standard of health, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, is critical to women's economic advancement, that lack of economic empowerment and independence increases women's vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, including the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and that the neglect of women's full enjoyment of human rights severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including the opportunities for receiving an education and for achieving economic and political empowerment,

*Reaffirming* the need to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date and at all levels by 2015, and reaffirming also that equal access to education and training at all levels, in particular in business, trade, administration, information and communications technology and other new technologies, and fulfilment of the need to eliminate gender inequalities at all levels are essential for gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication and to allowing women's full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development,

*Recognizing* that workers should have access to education, skills, health care, social security, fundamental rights at work, social and legal protections, including occupational safety and health, and decent work opportunities,

*Reaffirming* the significant contributions that women make to the economy, that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequalities through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace, and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

*Recognizing* that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

*Recognizing also*, in this context, the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, inter alia, justice, gender equality, equity, civil and political participation and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms for the advancement and empowerment of women,

*Bearing in mind* the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women

and stereotypic roles of men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

*Recognizing* that poverty eradication and the achievement and preservation of peace are mutually reinforcing, and recognizing also that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and to development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>18</sup>
2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration<sup>2</sup> and Platform for Action<sup>3</sup> and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,<sup>4</sup> entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”;
3. *Recognizes* the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality and poverty eradication and the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, comprehensive poverty eradication strategies with a gender perspective that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues;
4. *Emphasizes* the need to link policies on economic and social development to ensure that all people, including those living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, benefit from inclusive economic growth and development, in accordance with the goals of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>8</sup> and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus;<sup>10</sup>
5. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to accelerate their efforts and provide adequate resources to increase the voice and full and equal participation of women in all decision-making bodies at the highest levels of government and in the governance structures of international organizations, including through eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions, to build women’s capacity as agents of change and to empower them to participate actively and effectively in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national development, poverty eradication and environmental policies, strategies and programmes;
6. *Encourages* Member States to continue to increase, as appropriate, the participation of civil society, including women’s organizations, in Government decision-making in national development policy areas;
7. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to ensure systematic attention to, recognition of and support for the crucial role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict, in mediation and peacebuilding efforts and

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<sup>18</sup> A/68/271.

in the rebuilding of post-conflict society, inter alia, through promoting women's capacity, leadership and engagement in political and economic decision-making;

8. *Stresses* the importance of the adoption by Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders of appropriate measures to identify and address the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy prices and the food crisis, and the challenges posed by climate change for women and girls, and of maintaining adequate levels of funding for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

9. *Also stresses* the importance of the creation by Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders of a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all areas of life for the effective integration of women in development, and of their undertaking and disseminating a gender analysis of policies and programmes related to macroeconomic stability, structural reform, taxation, investments, including foreign direct investment, and all relevant sectors of the economy;

10. *Urges* the donor community, Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders to strengthen the focus and impact of development assistance targeting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through gender mainstreaming, the funding of targeted activities and enhanced dialogue between donors and partners, and to also strengthen the mechanisms needed to measure effectively the resources allocated to incorporating gender perspectives in all areas of development assistance;

11. *Urges* Member States to incorporate a gender perspective, commensurate with gender-equality goals, into the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national development strategies, to ensure alignment between national action plans on gender equality and national development strategies, and to encourage the involvement of men and boys in the promotion of gender equality, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts to develop methodologies and tools and to promote capacity-building and evaluation;

12. *Encourages* Member States to ensure inclusive and more effective participation of national mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment in the formulation of national development strategies, including strategies aimed at eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities, and calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts in this regard;

13. *Also encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen capacities for gender mainstreaming by allocating adequate financial and human resources to national women's machineries as well as to and within line ministries, establishing and/or strengthening dedicated units for gender equality and the empowerment of women, and providing capacity development for technical staff, and developing tools and guidelines;

14. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and donor countries to strengthen gender-responsive planning and budgeting processes and to develop and strengthen methodologies and tools for this purpose as well as for the monitoring and evaluation of investments for gender-equality results, as appropriate,

and encourages donors to mainstream a gender perspective in their practices, including joint coordination and accountability mechanisms;

15. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement legislation and policies designed to promote the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, including through increased flexibility in working arrangements, such as part-time work, and the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers, to provide care facilities for children and other dependants, and to ensure that both women and men have access to maternity or paternity, parental and other forms of leave and are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits;

16. *Expresses deep concern* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls, reiterates the need to further intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and recognizes that violence against women and girls is one of the obstacles to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace and that women's poverty and lack of political, social and economic empowerment, as well as their marginalization, may result from their exclusion from social policies for and the benefits of sustainable development and can place them at increased risk of violence;

17. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society to promote and protect the rights of women workers, to take action to remove structural and legal barriers to, as well as eliminate stereotypic attitudes towards, gender equality at work, and to initiate positive steps towards promoting equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value;

18. *Encourages* the United Nations system and donor countries to support Member States in increasing their investments in policies and programmes with a gender perspective in order to promote women's access to decent work and in delivering gender-responsive social protection and social services;

19. *Urges* Governments to develop, adequately resource and implement active labour-market policies on full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the full participation of women and men in both rural and urban areas;

20. *Urges* the United Nations system and other international organizations to support and promote innovative programme responses to ensure women's access to decent work, to promote social protection initiatives and measures for women and girls with a gender perspective, and to support and encourage the scale-up of existing good practice programmes and initiatives;

21. *Recognizes* that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level, and the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by, inter alia, incorporating a gender perspective into policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and discrimination against them, and therefore calls upon Governments to strengthen efforts to protect the rights of, and ensure decent work conditions for, domestic workers, including migrant women, in relation to, inter alia, working hours, conditions and wages, and to promote access to health-care services and other social and economic benefits;

22. *Encourages* Governments and the United Nations system to support the development of infrastructure and technologies and the provision of public services, including accessible and quality childcare, incentives such as parental leave, flexible working arrangements and allowances;

23. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and/or review and to fully implement legislation and policies with a gender perspective that reduce, through specifically targeted measures, horizontal and vertical occupational segregation and gender-based wage gaps;

24. *Encourages* Governments to collect, analyse and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and statistics on women's access to decent work and social protection, and to assess the impact of associated policy measures;

25. *Urges* all Member States to undertake a gender analysis of national labour laws and standards and to establish policies and guidelines for employment practices with a gender perspective, including for transnational corporations, with particular attention to export-processing zones, building in this regard on multilateral instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>19</sup> and conventions of the International Labour Organization;

26. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities, and encourages Governments to create a climate that is conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their businesses by giving them equal access to financial instruments, providing them with training and advisory services in business, administration and information and communications technology, facilitating networking and information-sharing and increasing their participation on advisory boards and in other forums so as to enable them to contribute to the formulation and review of policies and programmes being developed by financial institutions;

27. *Urges* all Member States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to their access to all types of financial services and products, including bank loans, bank accounts, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, regardless of their economic and social status, to support women's access to legal assistance and to encourage the financial sector to mainstream gender perspectives in their policies and programmes;

28. *Recognizes* the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the generation of employment, notes in this regard the importance of sound national financial systems, and encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions;

29. *Urges* Governments to ensure that microfinance programmes focus on developing savings products that are safe, convenient and accessible to women and support women's efforts to retain control over their savings;

30. *Urges* all Governments to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of education and ensure their equal access to all levels of education;

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<sup>19</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

31. *Encourages* Member States to adopt legislation and policies guaranteeing women's labour and human rights in the workplace, including minimum wages, social protection and equal pay for equal work, promoting collective bargaining and organizing recruitment, retention and promotion policies targeting women;

32. *Encourages* Governments to take measures to facilitate equitable access to land and property rights by providing training designed to make the judicial, legislative and administrative system more responsive to gender-equality issues, to provide legal aid for women seeking to claim their rights, to support the efforts of women's groups and networks and to carry out awareness campaigns so as to draw attention to the need for women's equal rights to land and property;

33. *Recognizes* the need to enhance employment and income opportunities for all, especially for women and men living in poverty, and encourages Governments to promote decent work for all segments of society and to strengthen labour market regulations and social provisions to create a more level playing field for women, including by enacting and enforcing minimum wage legislation, eliminating discriminatory wage practices and promoting measures such as public works programmes, in order to enable women to cope with recurrent crises and long-term unemployment;

34. *Recognizes* the need to empower women, particularly poor women, economically and politically, and in this regard encourages Governments, with the support of their development partners, to invest in appropriate infrastructure and other projects, including the provision of water and sanitation to rural areas and urban slums, to increase health and well-being, relieve the workloads of women and girls and release their time and energy for other productive activities, including entrepreneurship;

35. *Also recognizes* the central role of agriculture in development, and stresses the importance of reviewing agricultural policies and strategies to ensure that women's critical role in food and nutritional security is recognized and addressed as an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity, excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries;

36. *Further recognizes* the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, and their traditional knowledge, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty;

37. *Expresses concern* at the overall expansion of the HIV and AIDS epidemic and the fact that women and girls are still the most affected by HIV and AIDS, that they are more easily infected, that they bear a disproportionate share of the caregiving burden and that they are more vulnerable to violence, stigmatization and discrimination, poverty and marginalization from their families and communities as a result of HIV and AIDS, and taking into account that despite substantial progress, the 2010 deadline of universal access has not been met, calls upon Governments and the international community to urgently scale up responses towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support and, in line with the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,<sup>13</sup> to ensure that national responses to HIV and AIDS meet the specific needs



of women and girls, including those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS across their lifespan;

38. *Reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>20</sup> by integrating this goal into strategies for attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>5</sup> aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV and AIDS and eradicating poverty;

39. *Urges* Governments and all sectors of society to promote and to pursue gender-based approaches to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases based on data disaggregated by sex and age in their effort to address the critical differences in the rapidly growing magnitude of non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, which affect people of all ages, gender, race and income levels, as noted in the Political Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,<sup>14</sup> and notes that poor populations and those living in vulnerable situations, in particular in developing countries, bear a disproportionate burden and that non-communicable diseases can affect women and men differently, because, inter alia, women bear a disproportionate share of the burden of caregiving;

40. *Encourages* Governments and all sectors of society to take sustainable measures to ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development and vocational and entrepreneurial training, in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, as noted in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond,<sup>21</sup> and notes the need to strengthen efforts aimed at addressing the rights and needs of women and children with disabilities;

41. *Expresses deep concern* that maternal health remains one area constrained by some of the largest health inequities in the world, and over the uneven progress in improving child and maternal health, and in this context calls upon States to implement their commitments to preventing and reducing child and maternal mortality and morbidity, and welcomes in that regard the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health as well as national, regional and international initiatives contributing to the reduction in the number of maternal deaths and deaths of the newborn and children under age 5;

42. *Recognizes* that there is a need for all donors to maintain and deliver on their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance commitments and targets, and that the full implementation of those commitments will

<sup>20</sup> See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

<sup>21</sup> Resolution 68/3.

substantially boost resources available to push forward the international development agenda;

43. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen the capacity of Governments to incorporate a gender perspective into policies and decision-making, and encourages all Governments, international organizations, including the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders to assist and support the efforts of developing countries in integrating a gender perspective into all aspects of policymaking, including through the provision of technical assistance and financial resources;

44. *Encourages* the international community, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to continue to provide the financial resources necessary to assist Governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations conferences and summits;

45. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies that support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

46. *Stresses* the importance of improving and systematizing the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age, and of developing gender indicators that are specific and relevant with respect to supporting policymaking and national systems for monitoring and reporting on progress and impact, and in that regard encourages developed countries and relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide support and assistance to developing countries, upon their request, with respect to establishing, developing and strengthening their databases and information systems;

47. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments, investment frameworks and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this domain in accordance with national development strategies, and welcomes the work of UN-Women with United Nations country teams in assisting Member States, at their request, in integrating a gender perspective into national development policies and strategies, in accordance with their national priorities, and stresses its important role in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system so as to ensure that the commitment to gender equality and gender mainstreaming translates into effective action throughout the world;

48. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, within their organizational mandates, to further improve their institutional accountability mechanisms and to include intergovernmentally agreed gender-equality results and indicators in their strategic frameworks with a gender perspective;

49. *Stresses* the need to properly address gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including on integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies;

51. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”, the sub-item entitled “Women in development”.

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