

**Responses to Recommendations**

**SYRIA**

Review in the Working Group: 7 October 2011  
 Adoption in the Plenary: 15 March 2012

**Syria's responses to recommendations (as of 07.03.2012):**

<b>In the Report of the Working Group:</b>	<b>In the Addendum:</b>	<b>During the plenary:</b>	<b>Summary:</b>
90 recs. accepted (among which 26 were considered as already implemented and 15 in the process of implementation); 54 rejected; 25 pending			Accepted: 90 Rejected: 54 No clear position: 0 Pending: 25

**List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/19/11:**

**100. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined by Syria and enjoy its support:**

A - 100.1. Continue to harmonise its domestic laws with the international human rights conventions to which it is party, in line with democratic principles and fundamental freedoms and equality (Indonesia);

A - 100.2. Bring national laws fully into line with its obligations under ICCPR, CEDAW, CAT and CRC (Maldives);

A - 100.3. Maintain the positive momentum in improving legislation and institutions, and ensure the execution of its laws in practice, in particular in the areas of education, women rights, childhood, persons with disabilities and victims of trafficking in persons (Venezuela);

A - 100.4. Maintain a relation of cooperation with the universal system of promotion and protection of human rights (Uruguay);

A - 100.5. Continue to strengthen cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms (Bangladesh);

- A - 100.6. Deepen and widen cooperation with the United Nations human rights system, and in particular with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms (Malaysia);
- A - 100.7. Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);
- A - 100.8. Establish a national human rights institution accredited by the International Coordinating Committee (Poland);
- A - 100.9. Establish a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights with a broad mandate and independent membership (Bolivia);
- A - 100.10. Consider establishing additional national human rights mechanisms to promote and protect human rights (Lebanon);
- A - 100.11. Continue to implement measures to enhance national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights (Belarus);
- A - 100.12. Continue to confront attempts of foreign intervention into its domestic affairs and to exercise fully its people's right to self-determination and the country's sovereignty (Cuba);
- A - 100.13. Continue the process of taking measures at the national level as well as the national dialogue under the guidance of its legitimate authorities as a means of a political solution to the situation in the country (Cuba);
- A - 100.14. Establish an inclusive national dialogue leading to free and fair multiparty elections as soon as possible (Maldives);
- A - 100.15. Make effective a genuine process of national dialogue with the opposition (Spain);
- A - 100.16. Find a formula to reinitiate a respectful dialogue between the various parties and to find a peaceful solution to the problem (Ecuador);
- A - 100.17. Take more tangible steps to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens, by continuing to engage all relevant parties in an open and meaningful dialogue (Iran);
- A - 100.18. Continue efforts to find peaceful solutions to any issues pertaining to the protection of human rights in the country, including through inclusive dialogues involving relevant civil societies (Indonesia);
- A - 100.19. Intensify an all-inclusive transparent process with a view to fulfilling the aspirations of all Syrian people (South Africa);
- A - 100.20. Continue to appropriately implement all changes promised to its people and strengthen the dialogue mechanisms with civil society (Bolivia);
- A - 100.21. End conflict and violence and reach a political solution through dialogue and national reconciliation in order to bring Syria back to a normal situation (Vietnam);
- A - 100.22. Accelerate and follow-up on implementation of the package of reforms as announced by the country's leadership (Malaysia);
- A - 100.23. Expedite its reforms such as measures to raise citizens' living standards and duly take into account the aspirations of the people of Syria in the reform process (Thailand);
- A - 100.24. Implement political and economic reforms conducted with the full participation of all social sectors for the development of the country and better ensure the fundamental rights and freedom for the people (Vietnam);
- A - 100.25. Make every effort to put an end to violence, implement genuine political reforms at this critical juncture, and continue to work towards reaching a peaceful solution through negotiations and

dialogue, in order to spare further bloodshed of the brotherly Syrian people, and preserve its security and stability and the unity of territorial integrity (Sudan);

A - 100.26. Facilitate unfettered access to humanitarian aid and assistance, particularly to the regions and communities most affected by the conflict (Malaysia);

A - 100.27. Provide unhindered access to humanitarian assistance to both its population and foreign nationals (Thailand);

A - 100.28. Ensure broader opportunities for human rights training for the members of the security forces (Venezuela);

A - 100.29. Multiply its efforts to involve in the decision-making the active participation of different social structures, especially those geared to combat poverty and social equality (Nicaragua);

A - 100.30. Enhance policies and measures to protect social vulnerable groups, especially women, children and elderly persons (Vietnam);

A - 100.31. Adopt a comprehensive national human rights plan of action and finalise the national plan for the protection of women and children (Indonesia);

A - 100.32. Adopt a comprehensive National Plan of Action geared towards solving the issue of street children (Uruguay);

A - 100.33. Further pursue policies and programmes which aim to improve the quality of social services, including health services and education (Russian Federation);

A - 100.34. Submit overdue periodic reports, as required by treaties and conventions to which Syria is a party (Iran);

A - 100.35. Strengthens efforts to further promote empowerment of women (Bangladesh);

A - 100.36. Consider strengthening all measures aimed at promoting gender equity and the full and effective participation of women in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres of life, including through legislative and administrative means (South Africa);

A - 100.37. Immediately adopt and implement necessary legislative and administrative measures to promote a greater inclusion of women in the country's public and political life, ensuring that they effectively participate in the decision-making process, and lift the reservations made to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Mexico);

A - 100.38. Step up efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, in particular women and children (Belarus);

A - 100.39. Ensure transparent and effective national investigations into all cases of violence and all cases of deaths and bring those responsible to justice (Russian Federation);

A - 100.40. Put into place domestic measures and mechanisms aimed at strengthening accountability and ensure redress and reparations for victims of possible human rights violations (Malaysia);

A - 100.41. Strengthen efforts to prevent violence against and abuse of children (Bangladesh);

A - 100.42. Ensure freedom of expression in conformity with the principles of the Constitution and adopt additional measures to put this in practice (Russian Federation);

A - 100.43. Implement the right to life, freedom of expression and opinion and the freedom of assembly in day-to-day practice (Netherlands);

A - 100.44. Adopt measures to ensure the rights of citizens to peaceful assembly under conditions of observance of public order and the safety of citizens and state and private establishments and organizations (Russian Federation);

A - 100.45. Continue efforts to create an environment harmonizing citizens' rights to peaceful protest with the need for security and integrity of the country and with efforts to maintain public order and protect public and private property (Venezuela);

A - 100.46. Intensify youth programs and create more employment opportunities for young people (Iran);

A - 100.47. Intensify youth programs and create more employment opportunities for youths (Lebanon);

A - 100.48. Further pursue the policies and programs to improve quality and effectiveness of basic social services provided to its citizens (Lebanon);

A - 100.49. Continue the efforts to strengthen food security for all its people, particularly in rural areas (Bolivia);

**101. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Syria, which considers the recommendations as already implemented:**

A - 101.1. Amend legislation allowing the imprisonment of prisoners of conscience so as to be in compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (articles 18–22) (Belgium);

A - 101.2. Ensure that the new legislation regulating freedom of assembly is brought in line with international human rights law, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Syria has been a party since 1969 (Sweden);

A - 101.3. Respect its international obligations pursuant to the United Nations human rights treaties to which it is a party (Belgium);

A - 101.4. Publish a detailed roadmap of planned human rights and political reforms (Maldives);

A - 101.5. Allow unhindered and sustained access for humanitarian agencies and workers and restore basic services including unhindered access to hospitals (Poland);

A - 101.6. Take measures to address the low levels of representation of women in public and political life and in decision-making (Slovenia)

A - 101.7. Take urgent measures to protect the most vulnerable groups, with particular attention to boys and girls (Chile);

A - 101.8. Comply with commitments enshrined in the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action, particularly as regards the prevention and punishment of discrimination against the population of Kurdish origin (Mexico);

A - 101.9. Take all necessary steps to ensure that torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment of civilians do not occur (Sweden);

A - 101.10. Put an end to massive and indiscriminate detentions and proceed as soon as possible to free prisoners of conscience and people who have been arbitrarily arrested; and end the use of torture and ill-treatments (Spain);

A - 101.11. Immediately and unconditionally release all those arbitrarily detained (Norway);

A - 101.12. Release all prisoners of conscience and arbitrarily detained persons (Poland);

A - 101.13. Free without delay prisoners of conscience and those who are arbitrarily detained (Switzerland);

A - 101.14. Release prisoners of conscience and those arbitrarily detained, and immediately stop intimidation, persecutions and arbitrary arrests (Uruguay);

A - 101.15. Ensure the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, human rights defenders and detainees and make incommunicado detentions illegal (Sweden);

A - 101.16. Take urgent action to release all prisoners who have been detained for exercising freedom of expression (Chile);

A - 101.17. Allow all detainees access to lawyers immediately after their detention and bring them before a judge no later than 48 hours; and provide information about the whereabouts of disappeared persons (Spain);

A - 101.18. Ensure that all detainees are afforded all fundamental safeguards from the outset of their detention, including the right to have prompt access to a lawyer and an independent medical examination and to notify a relative (Poland);

A - 101.19. Establish an independent and impartial judiciary system (Switzerland);

A - 101.20. Undertake reforms of the judicial system to ensure that the procedures are in conformity with international standards for an equitable judgment (article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) (Belgium);

A - 101.21. Take steps to ensure that the freedoms of expression and association are fully respected as called for by the 16th Special Session of the Human Rights Council (Japan);

A - 101.22. Fully respect freedom of expression and association, and allow for unhindered activities by media (Brazil);

A - 101.23. Put an end to direct and indirect restrictions on freedom of expression and adopt appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to prevent any intimidation of journalists (Poland);

A - 101.24. Immediately end all human rights violations against civilians in relation to their peaceful exercise of freedom of expression and assembly (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

A - 101.25. Take concrete steps to implement international legal obligations to protect peaceful assembly in line with calls from the United Nations Secretary General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

A - 101.26. Enable civil society to meet peacefully and organise in freedom and safety (Poland).

**102. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Syria, which considers the recommendations as being in the process of implementation:**

A - 102.1. Incorporate into domestic law and enact the provisions of the international instruments, particularly CAT, CEDAW and CRC (Poland);

A - 102.2. Implement the recommendations of the Committee against Torture (Belgium);

A - 102.3. Immediately end all acts of torture and hold accountable those responsible for such acts (Norway);

A - 102.4. Conduct a credible and impartial investigation and address all allegations of human rights violations with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice (Thailand);

A - 102.5. Immediately and independently investigate the deaths of all the 88 men and children reported by Amnesty International on 31 August to have died whilst in custody and the thousands of peaceful protestors, including 100 children, reported by the United Nations to have been killed since the protests began in mid-March 2011 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

A - 102.6. Undertake an extensive investigation into acts of on-going violence as well as all allegations of human rights violations (South Africa);

A - 102.7. Bring to justice those who commit arbitrary killings, acts of torture and other human rights violations (Switzerland);

A - 102.8. Promptly undertake measures to address allegations relating to instances of involuntary disappearances, arbitrary arrests, the routine use of torture, violence against women and girls, lack of judicial independence, impunity granted to the members of intelligence agencies, persecution of human rights defenders, and restriction of freedoms of expression and assembly, and carry out fundamental reforms of its laws, policies and practices with a view to improving the current dire human rights situation and preventing its recurrence (Republic of Korea);

A - 102.9. End impunity through a credible investigation by the special judicial commission and try those responsible for human rights violations (Spain);

A - 102.10. Launch a credible and impartial investigation and prosecute those responsible for attacks on peaceful protesters (Poland);

A - 102.11. Review manuals, training and rules of engagement of the security apparatus in the light of the principles developed in the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles of the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (Netherlands);

A - 102.12. Reform the legal system so as to entrench accountability of the military and the security apparatus, to end impunity for human rights violations committed by the members of these institutions and provide compensation to the victims (Netherlands);

A - 102.13. Take all measures to respect freedom of expression (Switzerland);

A - 102.14. Revise its Personal Status Act to ensure that women and men have equal rights (Brazil);

A - 102.15. Put an end to all human rights violations (Poland).

**103. The following recommendations will be examined by Syria, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council:**

P - 103.1. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance at an early date (Japan);

P - 103.2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, and accede to the 1951 Refugee Convention on Refugees and its 1967 Optional Protocol (Peru);

P - 103.3. Sign and ratify OPCAT and establish a national preventive mechanism (Maldives);

P - 103.4. Ensure that the judicial definitions contained in human rights treaties are incorporated effectively and in a timely fashion in its national legislation (Peru);

P - 103.5. Adopt a definition of torture in conformity with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Brazil);

P - 103.6. Incorporate in the domestic legislation the definition of torture, in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and ensure that no statement made as a result of torture can be invoked as evidence in any judicial proceedings, in conformity with Article 15 of this Convention (Mexico);

P - 103.7. Consider withdrawing the reservations to articles 14, 20 and 21 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Uruguay);

P - 103.8. Withdraw reservations to all international human rights treaties to which it is a party, and consider the ratification of the outstanding human rights treaties (Slovenia);

P - 103.9. Withdraw the reservations to Article 20 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to this Convention (Mexico);

P - 103.10. Implement the obligations undertaken on signing the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);

P - 103.11. Allow the Human Rights Council mandated Commission of Inquiry immediate and unhindered access to Syria (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

P - 103.12. Cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council (Brazil);

P - 103.13. Cooperate with the international community, in particular through cooperation with the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the recently established Commission of Inquiry (Slovenia);

P - 103.14. Cooperate with the competent authorities of the United Nations and in particular accept the visit of the Independent Commission of Inquiry composed of international experts (Switzerland);

P - 103.15. Cooperate with the United Nations and Human Rights Council mechanisms, particularly the Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council (Thailand);

P - 103.16. Fully cooperate with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry established under Human Rights Council resolution S-17/1 (Norway);

P - 103.17. Extend cooperation to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights so that the Office can visit Syria as soon as possible, and facilitate the investigation requested by the Human Rights Council (Chile);

P - 103.18. Allow the International Commission of Inquiry to visit the country to better understand the situation on the ground, and to work with the Government and other stakeholders to ensure accountability and to promote human rights reform (Maldives);

P - 103.19. Fully cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including in particular the Commission of Inquiry mandated by the Human Rights Council (Republic of Korea);

P - 103.20. Fully implement Human Rights Council resolutions S-17/1 of 23 August 2011 and to fully cooperate with the independent commission of inquiry (Germany);

P - 103.21. Fully cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the Special Procedures (Guatemala);

P - 103.22. Extend all necessary cooperation to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its staff to visit as quickly as possible and to carry out the investigations mandated by resolution S-16/1 (Peru);

P - 103.23. Act upon the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council (Guatemala);

P - 103.24. Positively respond to pending visits request by Special Procedures mandate holders (Slovenia);

P - 103.25. Respond favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteurs on torture and on the situation of human rights defenders to visit the country (Belgium).

#### **104. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Syria:**

R - 104.1. Ratify or accede, as appropriate, to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay);

- R - 104.2. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Poland, Brazil);
- R - 104.3. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court which it signed in 2000 (Slovenia);
- R - 104.4. Withdraw its reservations to various international human rights instruments so as to allow complaints both by individuals and from other States parties (Peru);
- R - 104.5. Take heed of the concerns expressed by relevant Treaty Bodies, including on the right to life administration of justice, and gender equality, and fully implement the provisions of the respective treaties (Japan);
- R - 104.6. Integrate into national legislation the principles and provisions of international human rights instruments ratified by Syria, and abolish laws that contradict them (Canada);
- R - 104.7. Abolish legislative provisions that grant state officials immunity from prosecution, notably by repealing Decrees 14/1969 and 69/2008 (Canada);
- R - 104.8. Adopt and enforce laws against domestic violence, and remove mitigating factors from the punishment of “honour-crimes” against women (Canada);
- R - 104.9. Allow a Syrian-led transition to take place that will initiate change in laws and lead to the formation of an inclusive and representative government that adheres to the rule of law and upholds the rights of members of religious and ethnic minorities (United States);
- R - 104.10. Cease the de facto restitution of the death penalty and executions (Uruguay);
- R - 104.11. Immediately end violations of international human rights law, including violent reprisals against peaceful protestors, political activists and their families (United States);
- R - 104.12. Heed the calls of the international community by immediately ending the repression and the climate of terror that it has imposed on its own population by respecting in all circumstances the rules of international law and by bringing to justice those responsible and the perpetrators of these crimes (France);
- R - 104.13. Immediately end attacks on peaceful protestors and activists and bring violators to account (Australia);
- R - 104.14. End its practice of arbitrarily detaining Syrians for participating in peaceful demonstrations and release all those held in detention (Australia);
- R - 104.15. Immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience (United States);
- R - 104.16. Allow the access of international observers to the places of detention (Switzerland);
- R - 104.17. Place all places of detention under effective judicial supervision and apply international standards for the treatment of detainees (Canada);
- R - 104.18. Immediately release all prisoners of conscience, including all persons detained for participating in peaceful demonstrations since March 2011 (Canada);
- R - 104.19. Allow full and unfettered access to the United Nations Human Rights Council’s Commission of Inquiry established under Human Rights Council resolution S-17/1 (Australia);
- R - 104.20. Allow for a prompt, impartial and independent investigation into all human rights abuses and grant the OHCHR immediate access to conduct investigations (Sweden);
- R - 104.21. Prosecute all those responsible for the mass-scale criminal acts that have taken place in the past months, including members of security units, responsible commanders and politicians (Czech Republic);

- R - 104.22. Immediately respect the decisions of the Human Rights Council and fully cooperate with the international Commission of Inquiry, including by granting access on the ground and by not inhibiting the mission which it has been entrusted with (France);
- R - 104.23. Ensure full compliance with the recommendations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as contained in her report to the Human Rights Council of 15 September 2011, reference number A/HRC/18/53 (Slovakia);
- R - 104.24. Carry out thorough, transparent and independent investigations into all reports of alleged human rights violations and abuses since March 2011, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Canada);
- R - 104.25. Cooperate with the United Nations by giving the Commission of Inquiry established by the United Nations Human Rights Council unfettered access to the country so that it may carry out its mandate (Canada);
- R - 104.26. Allow, without restrictions, unhindered access to the country for neutral observers and humanitarian actors (Norway);
- R - 104.27. Expeditiously permit international humanitarian missions, human rights observers and media unrestricted access within Syria, including the HRC Commission of Inquiry (United States);
- R - 104.28. Allow unrestricted access to journalists, humanitarian workers and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Australia);
- R - 104.29. Allow the access of international media, independent media and diplomats (Switzerland);
- R - 104.30. Allow journalists to freely exercise their profession and grant international media access to its territory (France);
- R - 104.31. Introduce a new media law removing all prison penalties for defamation and libel and guaranteeing the right to be informed by all means, including the internet (Canada);
- R - 104.32. Reform the justice system, ensuring its compliance with international standards for fair trial (Canada);
- R - 104.33. Respond to the legitimate demands of the Syrian people with a credible process for reform (Australia);
- R - 104.34. Establish a registration system to license independent nongovernmental organizations consistent with the right to freedom of association (Canada);
- R - 104.35. Comply with its legal obligations concerning the rights of minorities and guarantee the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of persons belonging to the Kurdish minority (Canada);
- R - 104.36. Extend an open and standing invitation to all Special Procedures mandate-holders and fully cooperate with them, permitting them to visit the country (Switzerland);
- R - 104.37. Issue a standing invitation to all Special Procedures mandate holders, and cooperate fully with the Commission of Inquiry established at the 17th Special Session of the Human Rights Council so that the latter shall be able to sufficiently conduct fact-finding activities and identify those responsible (Japan);
- R - 104.38. Issue a standing invitation to all thematic Special Procedures mandate holders, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (Ireland);
- R - 104.39. Issue a standing invitation and cooperate with Special Procedures mandate holders (Brazil);

R - 104.40. Extend an open invitation to the Special Procedures and cooperate with the human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the Commission of Inquiry, and allow the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights access to its territory (Spain);

R - 104.41. Extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (Uruguay).

**105. The following recommendations did not enjoy the support of Syria as it considers that they are based on incorrect assumptions or premises:**

R - 105.1. Continue to strengthen the work of the independent commission established to investigate the whereabouts of disappeared persons (Bolivia);

R - 105.2. Revoke recently introduced laws that obstruct fundamental freedoms (Poland);

R - 105.3. Immediately halt the violence against its citizens, which is causing many deaths and injuries, including those of women and children (Japan);

R - 105.4. Immediately end the violence against peaceful protesters, including human rights defenders, and hold accountable those responsible for such acts (Norway);

R - 105.5. Put an immediate stop to the excessive and lethal use of force against demonstrators and the killing of protesters, in respect of its international human rights obligations (Sweden);

R - 105.6. Immediately put an end to repressions of peaceful protests that have led to a high number of deaths and wounded people, including children (Spain);

R - 105.7. Immediately bring to an end the violence and repression against the civilian population (Switzerland);

R - 105.8. Bring its action in line with the assistance provided by the Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, so as to cease the violent repression, initiate an open national dialogue which is inclusive and transparent, and initiate a reliable and transparent investigation into the violent repression, which has resulted in a high number of injured and dead protesters (Uruguay);

R - 105.9. Investigate all cases of forced disappearances, put an end to secrete detentions and provide reparation to victims (Czech Republic);

R - 105.10. Ensure the prompt, impartial and effective investigation into persisting acts of harassment and persecution against human rights defenders (Slovenia);

R - 105.11. Take immediate steps to stop the arrests of human rights defenders and political dissidents, in accordance with its international human rights obligations (Norway);

R - 105.12. Allow for a free and unimpeded access of humanitarian organisations, medical teams and ambulances (Switzerland);

R - 105.13. Lift its ban over censored websites and revoke the newly-adopted law which introduced an even stricter media censorship (Czech Republic).

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