

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
UNITED REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GUYANA  
(URPG)**



**A NEW BEGINNING  
FOR ALL GUYANESE**



# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GUYANA (URPG)

## 1. Name and Area

1.1 The name of the body governed by this Constitution shall be “The United Republication Party (URP)

1.2 The Ten administrative electoral regions of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

## 2. Definitions

2.1 In this Constitution:

“the Party” means the United Republican Party (URP);

“the Party Constitution” means the

Constitutions of the United Republican Party (URP)

“the Regional Committees” means the Representatives in the 10 Administrative constituents;

“the Constituency/(ies)” means the Parliamentary Constituency/(ies) as mandated by the Guyana Elections Commission;

“Majority” at any meeting means majority of those present and voting; and

“Executive Committee” means the executive committee of the URP.

### **3. Objects**

3.1 To present to Guyanese a manifesto that encapsulates programmes that will move the Guyanese economy in a positive direction.

3.2 To set up, at all levels, government that will ensure that the basic needs of modern living, namely, food, portable water, shelter, primary health care, electric power access, road/waterways, base education (literacy/numeracy/skill), recreation/social amenities

information/public enlightenment, among others are available in a fair and just manner to all Guyanese;

3.3 To promote self-reliance through active and practical encouragement of small and medium scale industrial initiatives, handicraft, and agriculture;

3.4 To establish a policy of poverty eradication through active government intervention in youth training which will directly impact youth unemployment and redundancy;

3.5 To protect, promote and elevate the status of womanhood through various deliberate equalization methods such as equal salary for equal employment;

3.6 To provide benefit for pensioners, the elderly, the handicapped, widows and unemployed;

3.7 To protect the rights and privileges of children, including the unborn child, through appropriate legislations and welfare schemes;

3.8 To represent the interest of the Guyanese masses by participation in key and strategic sectors of the economy e.g. sugar and the sugar industry, rice trade and marketing; aggressive pursuit of nontraditional agriculture products; telecommunications; housing; fiscal/monetary control; scientific research and technological development specifically related to developing non- traditional sectors in relations to mining, etc.

3.9 To create a hospitable private sector atmosphere for manufacturing and production business to thrive and prosper in Guyana; while ensuring proper protection for local industries and manufactures.

3.10 To provide leadership, strategic and economic support (where appropriate and possible) to Guyanese in the Diaspora;

3.11 To honor international treaties, support and promote international co- operation between and among friendly nations and contribute socially, culturally and economically to the maintenance of world peace and order.

3.12 To defend the territorial integrity and unity of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

3.13 To actively entrench, encourage and regard observance of the nation's ethical values and morality, especially truth, justice, honesty, equity, and the fear of God.

3.14 To wage an ideological, moral, constitutional/legal war against corrupt practices, ethnicity, and indiscipline in private and public life;

3.15 To undertake all innovative activities that would eliminate or reduce practices, misery and uncertainty, foster liberty; enhance confidence, inculcate patriotism and nationalism, galvanize national unity, and

increase the quantum of happiness among Guyanese.

3.16 To enhance primary health care especially to the hinterland areas with specific emphasis on Amerindian villages and other settlements not readily accessible.

3.17 Enhancing compulsory basic education especially to the hinterland areas with specific emphasis on Amerindian villages and other settlements not readily accessible.

3.18 To sponsor scientific research for technological development in agriculture, mining and tropical diseases affecting Guyana;

3.19 To undertake any other activities or programs that would usher in positive change for the lasting benefit of all Guyanese.

## 4. Membership

4.1 The United Republican Party shall administer membership in accordance with the Membership Rules of the party.

4.2 All persons shall be eligible to join the United Republican Party if they agree with the fundamental values and objectives of the Party; and

(a) They live, work or study within the area of the United Republican Party, or

(b) If not eligible under Section 4.2 (a) they acquire membership with the consent of the United Republican Party Executive Committee, or

(c) They are leaders in the community of the United Republican Party is represented.

4.3 Eligible persons shall become members of the United Republican Party:

(a) On enrolment through the United Republican Party; or



- (b) On enrolment through the Party's Youth and Student Organisation giving an address within the Constituency; or
- (c) If already members of the Party, on re-registration as a member of the United Republican Party.

Members of the United Republican Party who are also members of the Party's Youth and Student Organisation may be restrained under the Party Constitution from exercising certain rights as members of the United Republican Party if they exercise equivalent rights as members of the Youth and Student Organisation.

- 4.4 (a) An applicant shall become a member on acceptance by the enrolling body, payment of the requisite subscription and registration on the register kept by the Party.
- (b) An application shall be deemed accepted if not rejected in accordance with the Membership Rules.
  - (c) Initial membership shall run for five year from (date of begging to date of five years

ending) following commencement.

(d) Members whose subscriptions are due shall receive notices of meetings and elections for a further 3 months.

(e) Members who do not renew their subscriptions before the end of the 3 months' period must reapply for membership.

4.5 The Executive Committee may refuse membership to, or revoke the membership of, any person, on the grounds provided by the Party Constitution, using the procedure defined in the **Membership Rules**.

4.6 A member of the United Republican Party who ceases to be eligible under Section 4.2 (a) may retain membership of the United Republican Party with the consent of the Executive Committee.

## **5. Structure of the United Republican Party**

5.1 The United Republican Party is composed of the Executive Body, International Groups, Regional Groups, District Groups, and URP Groups.

5.2 The Central Executive Committee controls the entire political party locally and internationally. The Central Executive Committee consists of the Leader/President, Vice President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Organizing Secretary, and Assistant Organizing Secretary.

5.3 All groups are created to assist and provide all necessary aid that the URP needs to improve and bring progress and growth to Guyana. The members of the groups responsibilities include making sure that people are aware and understand the importance of being proactive with the URP. The groups focus on raising

awareness, bringing financial and logistical support and to educate everyone about what The United Republican Party stands for and what the party want to accomplish.

5.4 The Central Executive Committee overlooks all groups.

5.5 Regional Groups overlooks the district groups throughout that region.

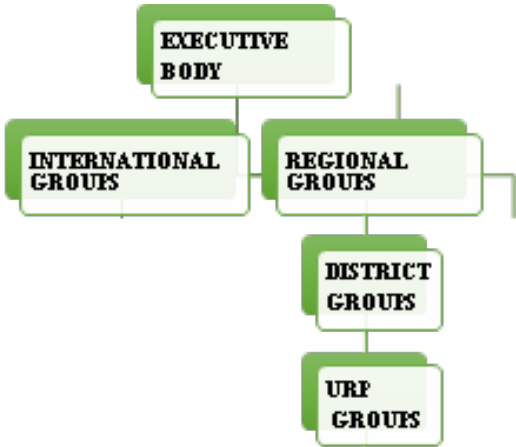
5.6 District Groups oversee all the other groups.

5.7 All groups are responsible for bringing in new members and are to focus on the formation of additional groups.

5.8 Election within all branches of the party will take place every two years. Newly elected officers shall take their seat on the 1st of January. This is the transitional period where the newly elected will have the opportunity to work with the previous members to prepare themselves for their new responsibilities.

**5.9 The Central Executive Committee can dismiss anyone, anytime if they do not comply by the rules, regulations, and policies of the URP.**

**Structure of the United Republican Party (URP)**



**6. Officers and Executive Committee**

6.1 The Officers of the United Republican Party shall be the President/Leader, Chair, [Vice-Chair,] General Secretary, Treasurer, Communication Officer, and Membership Development Officer. Their duties shall

include:

(a) The Chair - to chair all General and Executive Committee Meetings [;in the event of a tied vote the Chair shall have an additional casting vote]; to be jointly responsible with the Treasurer for the United Republican Party's compliance with the Political Parties and the Guyana Elections Commission Rules and regulations.

(b) The Vice-Chair - to chair General and Executive Committee Meetings if the Chair is unable to do so;

(c) The General Secretary - to handle the United Republican Party's correspondence; to maintain minutes of meetings;

(d) The Treasurer - to handle the United Republican Party's financial business and present financial reports to General Meetings; to be jointly responsible with the Chair for the United Republican Party's compliance with the Political Parties, and the Guyana Elections Commission Rules and regulations, as dictated by the Guyana Elections Commission;

(e) The Communication Officer - to:

- (i) receive all notices of application for membership and refer them to the Executive Committee for acceptance;
  - (ii) Maintain a membership register and maintain lists of members as necessary under this Constitution;
  - (iii) Hold and maintain the campaigning data of the United Republican Party; and
  - (iv) Ensure compliance with all statutory financial regulations.
- (f) The Membership Development Officer - to:
- (i) organise and run membership recruitment and renewal campaigns
  - (ii) ensure that the United Republican Party has a wide range of social and political activities to facilitate member retention

The President/Leader oversees the executive committee and the entire party to ensure and preserve the philosophy, goals and objectives of the party.

The General Secretary shall no later than 2nd January and within seven days after any subsequent change notify the names and

addresses of all Officers to General meeting.

6.2 There may be an Honorary President to be elected by the Annual General Meeting.

6.3 The general and financial business of the United Republican Party shall be controlled and carried on by the Executive Committee, subject to the decisions of General Meetings and in compliance with the Constitution of Guyana and the Elections Commission Regulations. The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) The Officers;
- (b) (7) Ordinary Members to be elected annually in the same manner as the Officers;
- (c) Representatives from each Region/Constituency, on a scale of (1 persons) per Region/Constituency,
- (d) The Party's Member of Parliament for the Constituency, and the prospective Parliamentary Candidate;
- (e) An elected representative of the Party's Youth and Student Organisation;



(h) An elected representative of the Party's Women Organisation;

6.4 The Executive Committee may co-opt up to (5) additional members, for a term expiring not later than the next following General Meeting. The power of co-option shall be used, inter alia, to ensure if possible that no more than two-thirds of the Executive Committee (other than under Sections 5.3 (d) - (h)), are of the same sex, and that there is fair representation of under represented communities in the locality, taking into account race, religion, age, disability, gender or sexual orientation and that this would create a composition of the Executive that reflects the community the United Republican Party serves.

6.5 [The Honorary President is entitled to attend all meetings of the Executive Committee.] Conference Representatives who are not members of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the Committee at which business relating to

the Conferences is discussed. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be open to members of the United Republican Party as space permits.

6.6 The Executive Committee may fill any vacancy occurring among the Officers or the Ordinary Members. Any vacancy in the Chair shall be filled from amongst the existing Executive Committee members. The General Secretary shall within seven days notify any change of Officers to the Regional Committees

6.7 The Executive Committee may assign special responsibilities to any of its members, including duties which would otherwise pertain to one of the Officers.] [The Executive shall designate an officer to deputise for the Chair if necessary if the Chair is ever unavailable.]

6.8 The Officers shall convene a meeting of the Executive Committee within one month after taking office. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly and not less than

four times in a year. The General Secretary shall give at least 7 days notice of meetings to all members of the Executive Committee. One-third of its members shall form a quorum. [A meeting may continue without a quorum if no member present objects, but no voting shall occur.]

6.9 The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committees for any specified purpose. No sub-committee or Executive Committee member may take action on behalf of the Executive Committee beyond their terms of appointment. All sub-committees shall report on their activities to the Executive Committee and may include persons who are not members of the Executive Committee and may delegate authority to take actions on their behalf. [The Executive Committee may also delegate authority to committees jointly constituted with other Regional Committees for particular purposes.]

6.10 In urgent circumstances the Officers may act on behalf of the Executive Committee.

They shall report on such actions to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

## **7. Election of Officers, Executive Committee and Conference Representatives**

7.1 The Officers, Ordinary Members and Conference Representatives shall be elected by and from members of the United Republican Party at the time of the Annual General Meeting. If an election is contested, there shall be a ballot [in which all United Republican Party members are sent ballot papers].

7.2 The term of office of Officers, Ordinary Members and Conference Representatives shall be from the 1st March following their election until the following 31st February 28. They shall be eligible for re-election; save that the Chair shall not serve for more than three consecutive terms, and shall not be eligible for re-election as Chair for two terms after leaving Office. A term consists of three years.

7.3 Nominations for election shall be invited in the notice summoning the AGM, and shall close at the AGM, but not before the reception of the Chair's, Treasurer's and Conference Representatives' reports. They must be proposed and seconded, and except in the case of nominations made at the AGM shall be in writing signed by the proposer, seconder and candidate.

7.4 Where elections are contested, ballot papers shall be distributed [to all members of the United Republican Party within 7 days]/ [at the AGM], and must be returned to the Returning Officer [within 21 days after]/[at] the AGM.

7.5 No person may be elected to hold more than one Office, or may be elected to be both an Officer and an Ordinary Member. Elections for Officers shall be counted in the order listed in Section 5.1 and for Ordinary Members after Officers. Any votes cast for candidates already elected to Office shall be transferred according to the voters' subsequent preferences.

7.6 The United Republican Party's representatives shall be elected as provided by the Party's Constitution. A representative shall cease to hold office upon ceasing to be a member of the United Republican Party or on failing to attend any meeting of the Conference without giving notice (so far as practicable) of inability to attend or without reasonable cause, unless the Executive Committee determines otherwise.

7.7 All contested elections under this constitution shall be by secret ballot by the Single Transferable Vote method in accordance with election rules made under the Party Constitution.

7.8 The Executive Committee shall appoint some disinterested person to act as Returning Officer. The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the receipt of nominations and for the preparation and distribution of ballot papers, their receipt and counting on return, and the declaration of the results.

7.9 Accidental failure to despatch notice of the AGM or a ballot paper in due time or at all to a person entitled to vote shall not invalidate an election or be treated as an irregularity, unless a substantial number of persons entitled to vote have not received notices or ballot papers at all or have received them too late to make it practicable to attend the meeting or return the ballot paper in due time by first-class post.

7.10 An unsuccessful candidate who alleges that there has been or may have been an irregularity in the election may within one calendar month after the declaration of the result ask for an investigation by the Regional Party in accordance with the Party Constitution. Subject to any order made after such an investigation, no irregularity shall invalidate an election.

7.11 The Returning Officer may extend the time for distribution and return of ballot papers where there are special circumstances

making it necessary to do so.

## **8. General Meetings**

8.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be on a day appointed by the Executive Committee, between 1st March and 31st February 28. The Executive Committee may postpone the Congress if it would conflict with a Parliamentary Election, or for other urgent reason.

8.2 The business of the AGM shall include:

(a) To receive a report from the Chair on the activities of the United Republican Party and the Executive Committee since the previous AGM;

(b) to consider and, if thought fit, approve the accounts of the United Republican Party for the previous financial year together with an independent report on those accounts, and to receive a report from the Treasurer including an outline budget for the following year;



- (c) To appoint for the current Financial Year (i) Auditors as is required by the act (ii) a person(s) to produce an independent report on the accounts for a General Meeting;
- (d) To receive reports from the AGM;
- (e) To receive reports from each, select committee/group of the United Republican Party members;
- (f) To transact any other business specified by the Constitution, or directed by the Executive Committee;
- (g) To consider any motion which has been submitted by any member of the United Republican Party to the General Secretary in time for circulation with the notice of the AGM?
- (h) To receive nominations for the election to elect Officers, Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee.

8.3 The General Secretary shall give all members at least 21 days written notice of the time and place of the AGM. Such notice shall specify all business to be conducted at the meeting.

8.4 The AGM may by a two-thirds majority agree to consider urgent or important business which has arisen since notice of the AGM was given.

8.5 A special General Meeting may be convened by the Officers, or by the Executive Committee; and shall, on receipt of a requisition signed by at least twenty members of the United Republican Party (or one-fifth of the membership if less), be convened by the General Secretary so as to be held within 28 days from the receipt of such requisition. At least 14 days written notice shall be given to all members. The meeting shall only consider business stated in the notice convening it. Failure to convene a validly requisitioned meeting within 14 days shall permit the meeting to be convened on behalf of (and at the expense of) the United Republican Party by any of the original requisitioners. In an emergency, the Officers may convene a meeting giving such notice as they consider sufficient in the circumstances.

8.6 20 members (or one-fifth of the membership if less), shall form a quorum at any General Meeting. A quorum is not required to receive reports and accounts. [A meeting may continue without a quorum if no member present objects except as provided for in Section 11.1.]

8.7 Notice and minutes of all Annual and Special General Meetings shall be sent to the General Secretary of the Regional Party.

8.8 Minutes shall be maintained of all proceedings of all General Meetings. Minutes shall also be kept of any meetings of the Executive Committee. In the absence of an Executive Committee member charged with the duty, the Meeting shall appoint a member to take minutes.

## **9. Regional Branches**

9.1 The Executive Committee may authorise the setting up of Branches covering the Ten Administrative /electoral Districts of the United Republican Party, provided that no branch shall be formed with less than 10 members. The objects of a Branch shall be to further the objects of the United Republican Party in the Region covered by the Branch. The Branch shall be subject to the ultimate authority of the United Republican Party.

9.2 The members of the Branch shall be:

- (a) All members of the United Republican Party whose Registered Membership Address (as defined in the Membership Rules of the URP) is within the Branch area, unless they have opted to be a member of another Branch;
- (b) Any councillor who represents a ward or division falling wholly or partially within the Branch area and who opts to be a member of the Branch;
- (c) Other members of the United Republican

Party who wish to be members, if the Branch's Committee and the United Republican Party Executive Committee agree.

No person who is not a member of the United Republican Party may be a member of the Branch. No person may be a member of more than one Branch.

9.3 All branches shall be entitled to require a subscription from its members, but the Executive Committee of the United Republican Party may agree to remit part of its subscription income to a Branch. A Branch shall not incur any debts for which the United Republican Party shall be responsible.

9.4 Each Branch shall be governed by the constitution of the United Republican Party which shall provide for:

- (a) A Committee which shall include Officers and Ordinary Members, and may include ex-officio and co-opted members;
- (b) Rules for election of Officers, Ordinary

Members of the Branch Committee and representatives to the United Republican Party Executive Committee;

(c) Rules for the calling and conduct of an Annual General Meeting and other General Meetings of the members;

(d) The names and addresses of the Officers, Ordinary Members and representatives to be notified to, and minutes of General and Committee Meetings to be supplied to the General Secretary of the United Republican Party.

All Branches shall be governed by the constitution of the United Republican Party (URP)

9.5 The finances of the Branch shall be held by the Treasurer of the United Republican Party [as part of the funds of the United Republican Party] and subject to section 10 of the constitution.]

9.5 (a) The Officers of the Branch shall include a Treasurer. The Branch's accounting

period shall be the same as that of the United Republican Party.

(b) The Branch Treasurer shall keep, maintain for six years, and pass to his or her successor accounting records which shall be available for inspection in accordance with statutory regulations.

(c) The Branch Treasurer shall ensure that all donation are received and a receipt is given, keep records and submit donations reports to the Treasurer of the United Republican Party.

(d) The Branch Treasurer shall annually produce accounts which shall be approved by the Branch Committee and shall be sent to the Treasurer of the United Republican Party by a date to be specified by the Treasurer of the United Republican Party.

(e) The Branch Treasurer shall submit the accounts of the Branch together with an independent report to [the Annual General Meeting]/[a General Meeting to be held as specify by the General Secretary.

(f) The Branch shall maintain one or more bank or other appropriate accounts in the name of the Branch for which the mandate

for withdrawal shall require the signature of at least two Officers who shall not come solely from members of any one family. The Branch may maintain further accounts for the deposit of money not required for the time being, requiring the same signatures.]

9.6 The Branch may appoint a substitute representative to the Executive Committee to fill a casual vacancy, or if a representative is unable to attend a particular meeting.

9.7 A Branch may dissolve itself by a two-thirds majority at a General Meeting; or be dissolved or suspended by the Executive Committee on the grounds that:

- (a) It is no longer functioning or able to hold such a meeting;
- (b) There have been serious irregularities in the conduct of the affairs of the Branch;
- (c) The affairs of the Branch have not been conducted in compliance with the statutory rules and regulations.
- (d) The membership of the Branch has fallen



below 10; or

(e) The affairs of the Branch are being conducted in a manner contrary to the interests of the United Republican Party as a whole.

If a Branch is dissolved or suspended, any member of the Branch may request the Regional Party to conduct an investigation. The United Republican Party shall not dissolve a Branch until the Branch has been given an opportunity to hold its own General Meeting.

9.8 The funds of a Branch shall, upon dissolution, be applied in paying its debts, and any surplus shall be added to the funds of the United Republican Party.]

## **10. Candidates for and Elections to Public Office**

10.1 When it is necessary to select a Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, the procedure shall be as provided by the Party Constitution. The Executive Committee may appoint a sub-

committee to carry out its duties under this procedure.

10.2 The Executive Committee shall seek to ensure that, so far as practicable, all seats within the Constituency on RDC/NDC are contested by members of the Party, unless the Executive Committee is satisfied that it is in the best interests of the Party in any case not to do so.

10.3 When it is necessary to select one or more local government candidates for an electoral area, the [United Republican Party]/[Branch or if there is no Branch, the United Republican Party] shall hold a [General Meeting at]/ [postal ballot in] which all members [who are resident in the electoral area concerned]/[of the United Republican Party]/[of the Branch] may vote, and may select any member from a list of approved candidates maintained by the Executive Committee, or may select any other member conditionally upon subsequent approval by the Executive Committee. The timetable and procedure for selection shall

be agreed by the Branch Committee and the Executive Committee, or where there is no Branch by the Executive Committee.

10.4 In any electoral area, in which the eligible electorate for voting in the selection does not exceed 10, the electorate shall be expanded to constitute the members living in the electoral area plus the Branch Committee or, if there is no Branch, the Executive Committee.]

10.5 In any case in which time does not permit the holding of a [General Meeting]/ [postal ballot] the [Branch Committee, or if there is no Branch the Executive Committee]/ [the Executive Committee] may select the candidate.

10.6 Where a Principal Local Authority covers more than one constituency the Executive Committees of the Local Parties concerned may agree to form appropriate joint arrangements to co-ordinate candidate approval and selection, campaigning and publicity and be responsible for the

formulation of policy on that Authority.

10.7 In any parish or town council elections, the committee of the relevant Branch, or if there is no Branch the Executive Committee shall vary the provisions of Sections 9.2 to 9.5 above as appropriate.]

10.8 A Delegated Nominating Officer will be appointed by the Party's Nominating Officer. The Delegated Nominating Officer shall act in accordance with the Rules made by the Party for Delegated Nominating Officers.

10.9 When a Parliamentary Election takes place, the activities of the United Republican Party shall be suspended except as necessary to comply with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and such power vested in an Agent to act on its behalf as necessary for the conduct of the Election.

10.10 The membership of any member of the United Republican Party who stands at any public election as candidate or agent

in opposition to a properly nominated candidate of the Party shall automatically and immediately be suspended and, subject to any appeal, shall be revoked.

10.11 Any candidate for election to public office standing as a representative of the Party must be a current member of the Party.

## **11. Finance**

11.1 The United Republican Party's accounting period shall be annual, ending on 31st December each year.

11.2 The Treasurer shall keep, maintain for six years, and pass to his or her successor accounting records which shall be available for inspection in accordance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

11.3 The Treasurer shall ensure that all donation is accepted from a permissible donor and shall keep records and submit donations reports to the Executive Committee and to

Chief Executive of the Federal Party.

11.4 The Treasurer shall annually produce accounts which shall be approved by the Executive Committee and if required by the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act 2000 shall be audited and submitted to the Electoral Commission.

11.5 The Treasurer shall submit the accounts of the United Republican Party together with an independent report to a General Meeting [which shall be held not later than (...) in each year.]

11.6 A copy of the annual accounts shall be sent to the Treasurer of the Regional Party and to the Chief Executive of the Federal Party.

11.7 The United Republican Party shall maintain one or more bank or other appropriate accounts in the name of the United Republican Party for which the mandate for withdrawal shall require the signature of at least two Officers who shall not

come solely from members of any one family. The United Republican Party may maintain further accounts for the deposit of money not required for the time being, requiring the same signatures.

11.8 If the United Republican Party fails by 15th January to notify the Chief Executive of the Federal Party of the appointment of a Chair and a Treasurer the United Republican Party shall automatically be suspended.

# **A VISION FOR A SAFE & MODERN GUYANA**



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