THE EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE
ANNUAL REPORT 2005
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The mission of the Earth Charter Initiative is to establish a sound ethical foundation for the emerging global society and to help build a sustainable world based on respect for nature, diversity, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.

**INTRODUCTION**

In 2005, the Earth Charter Initiative celebrated five years of extraordinary progress in its efforts to bring the Earth Charter to the attention of the world, and to build support for its common vision of just, peaceful, democratic, and ecologically sustainable world. During the year, the Initiative also looked back at its accomplishments and challenges, looked ahead at its strategic options, and made preparations to take several giant steps forward.

During 2005, the Initiative's accomplishments and challenges — for 2005 and for the previous years — were extensively documented in a variety of publications, reports, and other media, including:

*The Earth Charter in Action: Toward A Sustainable World*, a 184-page book with essays on the meaning of the Earth Charter and its impact and use in the world, with contributions by dozens of prominent leaders in the Earth Charter Initiative worldwide (Peter Blaze Corcoran, Mirian Vilela, and Alide Roerink, editors).

*The Earth Charter+5 Progress Report*, a 186-page collection of summary reports and reflections on the organizational and strategic progress of the Initiative, from an internal perspective (Steven C. Rockefeller and Mirian Vilela, editors, with contributions from many others). The *Progress Report* includes a financial report for the five-year period, through mid-2005.

*The Earth Charter Initiative Strategic Review 2001-2005: Findings and Recommendations*, a 68-page (plus appendices) report from the AtKisson Group, a consulting firm hired to provide the Initiative with an external analysis of impact and challenges, and to provide strategic recommendations for going forward (Alan AtKisson, lead author).

*The Earth Charter+5 Report*, proceedings of the international conference held 7-9 November 2005 in Amsterdam to celebrate the previous five years of activity and to set the stage for an exciting new Phase Three, focused on greatly expanding the reach and impact of the Earth Charter around the world.

**NOTE:** The Earth Charter+5 conference report also functions as an executive summary of the Progress Report, the Strategic Review, the key decisions taken by
the Initiative’s Steering Committee in 2005, and the general status of the Earth Charter Initiative at the close of 2005.

Because the Earth Charter Initiative was so thoroughly documented in 2005, this Annual Report is briefer than those we have produced in previous years. The report focuses on the highlights of last year's activities, summarizes the strategic and restructuring decisions taken during the year, and provides a financial report for fiscal year 2005. For details the reader should refer to the documents described above, which are all available for free download at the Initiative’s website, www.earthcharter.org.

THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2005

For the first five years of the Earth Charter's existence, the Initiative was staffed by a small Secretariat operating out of donated office space at the University for Peace, located outside San José, Costa Rica. The Secretariat has never been more than a handful of people, with a budget that must be characterized as "tiny" when compared to the global scope and mission of the Initiative. And yet, by encouraging and coordinating the activity of countless volunteers and partner organizations, the Secretariat managed to service and support a growing global initiative that is now reaching critical mass.

During 2005, it became clear that the Initiative had grown to the point where a different organizational structure and funding strategy would be required, if the Initiative's core support organization was itself to be sustainable and effective in the long term. So beginning in 2006, with the opening of a second office for the Earth Charter Initiative in Stockholm, the organizational core will be known as Earth Charter International.

Since the end of the year 2005 marked the end of the Secretariat's existence (under that name and structure), it is appropriate that the year ended with an enormous celebration of accomplishment at the Earth Charter +5 conference in Amsterdam. Here is a summary of the accomplishments of the Earth Charter Secretariat during 2005, by quarter:

January-March

Earth Charter Educational Materials for Costa Rican Schools

Educational materials on teaching and learning about sustainable development with the Earth Charter were launched for the Costa Rican primary schools. This project involved the production of a Guidebook for Teachers, a Workbook for Students and a 2005 planner - and training for primary school teachers. Over 150,000 copies were distributed to schools throughout the country, with the endorsement of the Ministry of Public Education. This project received the financial support of the Japanese Embassy and represented an important contribution to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which began in 2005.


**April-June**

**On-Line Forum: Consultation**

A two-week on-Line Forum titled, ‘Towards Earth Charter+5’ brought together focal points, partners and friends to consult on the future of the Earth Charter Initiative. The forum gave the people most active in the Earth Charter network an opportunity to share experiences, help the assessment process, and collect recommendations about the future of the Initiative. The forum also addressed the role of the Earth Charter as an educational tool, especially in light of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Discussions also concentrated on issues surrounding the Earth Charter’s role in global governance and the Initiative’s management structure, as well as exploring fundraising possibilities. A summary of the discussions is available at the Earth Charter website.

**July-September**

**Five-Year Progress Report**

This Report, prepared as part of the strategic assessment of the Initiative, documented years of productive effort in the fields of education, ethics, community development, youth empowerment, faith groups and the arts, as well as the process of gathering formal endorsements and establishing the Earth Charter as an internationally recognized reference document on sustainable development. The report also assessed strengths and weaknesses, provided input to the external review, and was integral to the process of determining next steps. Its purpose was to assist the Steering Committee and a small group of senior advisors in developing a set of recommendations regarding goals and strategies for the future, a budget and fundraising plan, and a governance structure appropriate for the next five years.

The report summarizes how the Earth Charter Initiative, during its first five years, grew from a document into an international movement of organizations and individuals ranging from educators, experts in international law, grassroot leaders and leading figures in public life. Despite very limited financial resources and a fairly loose-knit organizational structure, the Earth Charter Initiative has clearly amassed a record of significant accomplishment, especially in the areas of endorsement, education, local community development, global ethics and international law.

The report also offers details on specific accomplishments and milestones, such as: translation of the Earth Charter in 34 languages; the establishment of more than a dozen Earth Charter websites in different countries; the endorsement of over 2,400 organizations including UNESCO and The World Conservation Union – IUCN; and efforts to secure formal UN recognition during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

The report concludes that the major weakness of the Earth Charter Initiative during this time was the challenge of being a very large global project operating with a very small secretariat, and with very limited success in fundraising.
**External Strategic Review**

The external Strategic Review process, undertaken between June and September, included interviews with over one hundred internal and external stakeholders and multiple analyses of the Charter's impact, quantitative and qualitative. It also considered (and verified) the conclusions of the Five-Year Progress Report. It concluded that the Earth Charter was a unique and strategically important actor in the global sustainability movement, but that the Earth Charter Initiative needed to be restructured.

The Review identified two possible strategic "Roads Ahead" for the Steering Committee to consider taking for the next five years. One Road involved expansion, restructuring, and repositioning the Charter strategically and geographically; the other Road involved consolidation, a smaller organizational mandate, and a tightening of strategic focus on educational programming. The Review recommended the expansion of the Initiative, involving the establishment of Centers in different regions. It also recommended that all those involved in the Earth Charter Initiative be encouraged to pursue four unifying common goals or "Strategic Themes", summarized as the "Four E's" (presented here as later amended by the Steering Committee):

1. **Expanded Awareness** of the Earth Charter -- what it is, what it means, and how it can be implemented

2. **Education for a Sustainable Way of Life** -- in both formal and non-formal settings

3. **Engaged Endorsement of the Earth Charter** -- so that all who endorse are encouraged to promote, support, and implement it in meaningful ways that are appropriate to their circumstances

4. **Ethics-Based Governance and Assessment** -- actively using the Charter to guide decision making and to evaluate progress toward sustainability, with an ethical commitment to achieve the highest possible standards

The Strategic Review also included a region-by-region analysis of the strategic position of the Earth Charter, and offered recommendations for strengthening the Initiative in each region. A central recommendation involved outreach to the fast-growing community of "sustainable development professionals" working in government, business, education, and the civil sector worldwide.

**Steering Committee meeting**

In September the Steering Committee, chaired on this occasion by Steven Rockefeller and joined by other Commissioners and Senior Advisors, met outside New York City to consider the Progress Report and the Strategic Review. It chose to pursue an experimental "Transition to Phase 3," based on the recommendations of the Strategic Review and Progress Report, with the aim of expanding the presence and impact of the Earth Charter internationally. (Phase 1 was the development of the Earth Charter itself, Phase 2 was the launch and initial establishment of the Earth Charter as a global consensus document on the principles of sustainable development.) It also decided to offer the position of International Transition Director to Alan AtKisson, a position which he later accepted. This important meeting also dealt with many other issues; please refer to the formal record of the meeting, available from ECI, for details.
October-December

The Secretariat completed and published the following materials:

**Bringing Sustainability Into the Classroom: A Guidebook for Teachers**
This Guidebook provides clear, step-by-step recommendations for developing curriculum and classroom activities on sustainable development, with the Earth Charter as the base. It supports teachers in bringing their hopes for building a more just and peaceful world directly to students. The Guidebook has already been translated into Portuguese and Spanish, and editions in other languages are planned.

**Charting the Way Forward: Cases of the Earth Charter in Motion**
This report compiles twenty stories of how different groups around the world are using the Earth Charter in their schools, universities, non-formal educational settings and local communities.

**Earth Charter Youth Initiative**
The Earth Charter Youth Initiative met in Amsterdam for the first time, after operating for several years as an e-mail-only network. A group of thirty young people, representing participating youth groups from all regions of the world, used the opportunity not only to share their experiences in using the Earth Charter, but also to strengthen their network. The ECYI also began to develop its own Strategy for Action.

**Earth Charter Commission Meeting**
The Earth Charter Commission, which acts as an advisory body to the Earth Charter Initiative, met in Amsterdam for the first time since year 2000. It affirmed the decisions of the Steering Committee and signaled its intent to continue operating as a body of Ambassadors for the Earth Charter, and as the custodians of the Earth Charter text itself.

**Earth Charter+5 event held at the Royal Tropical Institute**
The Earth Charter+5 conference gathered 400 people from around the world in Amsterdam to celebrate the extraordinary success of the Earth Charter as a civil society movement that has also impacted national and international governance processes. Thematic sessions explored the application of the Earth Charter in peace-making, inter-faith dialogue, business, education, local governments, international law and in arts. This major Earth Charter event was organized as a collaborative project between the Earth Charter Initiative, The Netherlands Committee for Sustainable Development and International Cooperation (NCDO), The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), and Plan Netherlands.

At the conclusion of the Conference, the Steering Committee announced the launch of a Third Phase for the Initiative beginning in 2006 that involves an extensive reorganization and expansion of the Initiative, including the formation of a new international Council to replace the Earth Charter Steering Committee. The Council will be given responsibility for the oversight and financing of the Initiative.
The Steering Committee and Commission also agreed on a new strategic vision for the Initiative with a focus on four interrelated goals, the "Four E's" described above.

**Earth Charter in Action book**

At the EC+5 conference, the *Earth Charter in Action* book was launched in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. This book demonstrates the rich diversity of uses of the Earth Charter and points toward its many future possibilities. It contains sixty-two chapters - thematic and descriptive essays - by seventy-four contributors representing thirty-three nations.

**Earth Charter Video**

An Earth Charter introductory video (10 mins.) was unveiled at EC+5. The video provides an overview of the Initiative and showcases four stories about the Earth Charter’s implementation around the world.

**Earth Charter Awards**

To express appreciation for the outstanding efforts being taken to promote the Earth Charter worldwide, 2005 saw the launch of the first Maximo T. Kalaw, Jr. Awards. The winners received a check for 5,000 euros to support their continued work, sponsored by NCDO in the Netherlands. The winners were Mateo Castillo of Mexico (for promotion of the Earth Charter throughout that country), Louise Erbacher of Australia (for the "Brink Expedition," a round-the-world cycling duo spreading the Charter to schools worldwide), and Rustem Khairov of Russia (for his facilitation of the Earth Charter’s adoption and implementation by the Republic of Tatarstan). A special non-cash award was granted to ITAIPU Binacional, a public energy enterprise, for its "Cultivating Good Water" program in Brazil, under the leadership of Nelton Friedrich.

**Collaboration with the University for Peace**

The Earth Charter Team in Costa Rica taught its first full course on sustainable development to students of International Peace Studies programme at the University for Peace.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

From a grassroots perspective, 2005 was another remarkable year for the Earth Charter Initiative. Here we offer just five examples of the Earth Charter in Action in different regions of the world, to illustrate the kinds of projects that are also happening in hundreds of other places.
**India – Bringing the Earth Charter message to children**

With the objective of expanding the reach of the Earth Charter to millions of children and youth across India, as well as to raise general awareness about sustainability, Development Alternatives created and disseminated a “children's Earth Charter” and promoted it through its programme "CLEAN - Community Led Environment Action Network."

The adapted children’s version - based on the four parts and the main principles of the Earth Charter - has been translated into eight Indian languages: Hindi, Urdu, Bangla, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam (available through CLEAN-India web site: [http://cleanindia.org/Earth%20Charter.htm](http://cleanindia.org/Earth%20Charter.htm)).

**Jordan – The Earth Charter inspires young leaders to help build a sustainable region**

In Jordan, the “Black Iris Earth Charter Youth Group” was established under the auspices of the Princess Basma Youth Resource Center, which is part of the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (Zenid). Zenid serves as Jordan’s national focal point for the Earth Charter Initiative. The Black Iris group is coordinated by a core-group of seven young leaders from diverse social, ethnic and religious backgrounds affiliated to different youth organizations in Jordan. Among their many accomplishments, they have:

- Developed a national strategy to disseminate the EC among youth of Jordan, aiming at launching youth led initiatives based on the EC’s integrated vision of sustainable development, justice and peace.
- Created Arabic EC materials
- Started building a regional EC network with active youth in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine, aiming at promoting a culture of peace in this large conflict area
- Made the Earth Charter one of the supporting documents of Jordan’s National Strategy for Youth
- Contributed articles to the Youth Section in the Jordanian newspaper ALRAI, discussing topics such as international development issues, youth development issues and democracy
- Fostered discussions on youth participation guided by Earth Charter principles in the Jordan Forum for Youth and Culture, which is an umbrella organization for youth led initiatives
- Initiated programs of community service, such as: giving free lessons to orphans and non-privileged students at school and university levels, assisting youth with physical and social barriers and organizing projects to protect the local environment

**Mexico – Moving forward with the Earth Charter**

Mexico continues to be a vital center of Earth Charter activity, with support and participation from both the grassroots and the highest levels of government. Many workshops, youth events, and education projects were implemented during the course of the year, including a Master's Degree program with the Earth Charter at its base, and children’s version of the Charter developed by education experts.
As an indicator, of this vitality, the third National Meeting on the Earth Charter -- held at the State Government House in Morelia, Michoacán -- included the participation of the Minister of Environment of Mexico (who was officially representing President Vincente Fox), The State Governor of Michoacan, and the Mayor of Morelia. The event received full support from the State Government and gathered over 300 participants from all regions of Mexico. The conference had a special emphasis on the importance of culture and art in the quest towards sustainability. In addition, The Earth Charter for Youth (developed by youth themselves) was launched there, as well as a translation of the Earth Charter into Purepecha, an indigenous language of the State of Michoacan.

Portugal – Portuguese Association of Environmental Educators embrace the Earth Charter

In 2005 ASPEA, the Portuguese association for environmental education, adopted the Earth Charter for use in their environmental education projects, as part of Agenda 21 for primary schools. ASPEA's activities included:

- Promoting the Earth Charter during the national "Pedagogical Days on Environmental Education"
- Using the Charter as the basis for a forum on citizenship, involving "Dialogue Tables" for exploring key issues of sustainable development
- Engaging the Ministry of Education in Portugal to adopt the Earth Charter and help in the process of translating and publishing Earth Charter educational materials into Portuguese for wide distribution in the country.

United States of America – Earth Charter Community Initiatives

Twenty-five cities participated in the 2005 Earth Charter Community Summits, which are simultaneous events -- filled with music and art, well-known speakers and authors, interactive dialogues and discussions -- held in cities across the USA. The purpose of these Summits, held annually since 2001, is to bring community members together, to inspire them with the vision and principles of the Earth Charter, and to engage them in personal and local actions to implement its principles.

A number of other initiatives have emerged from the Summits program, including the Earth Scouts, a program of Earth Charter Communities USA for boys and girls ages 3 to 13 years, which has been developing training materials for duplicating the program elsewhere. A special guide on how to work with the Earth Scouts, entitled “Resources for families bringing up children in the spirit of the Earth Charter,” has been developed and will be launched nationally in early 2006; and the Earth Charter Community Indicators pilot project in Tampa, Florida, continues to build partnerships and funding for an effective launch in early 2006.
In preparation for the "Transition to Phase 3," the Earth Charter Initiative Steering Committee made the following key decisions during 2005, to be implemented in early 2006:

- The Steering Committee would be replaced in 2006 by a new governing body, the Earth Charter International Council. The Council would be developed through an open nominating process to reflect the full diversity of the Earth Charter Initiative. It would be appointed by the outgoing Steering Committee, and it would assume its role early in 2006.

- A new Earth Charter Center for Strategy and Communications would be opened in Stockholm, Sweden, and Alan AtKisson, who led the Strategic Review process in 2005, would be appointed International Transition Director to act as the chief executive officer for the Initiative and to lead a one-year transition process. Responsibility for overall strategy, management, fundraising, and communications would begin to shift to this new Center.

- The Secretariat in Costa Rica would become the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE. Under the direction of Mirian Vilela, it would pursue a focused strategy of promoting the use and impact of the Earth Charter in the centrally important education sector, in both formal and non-formal settings.

- Alan AtKisson and Mirian Vilela, together with any future Center directors, would make up an international Management Team. The organizational core of the Earth Charter Initiative would be called Earth Charter International, and the staff of the Earth Charter Initiative would now be called the Earth Charter International Team. The current system of "Focal Points," "Senior Advisors" and other formal and informal categories of participation in the Earth Charter would also be reorganized during 2006, to support the Phase 3 strategy of expanded outreach and impact.

- The Earth Charter Initiative would continue to exist as a fully independent, unincorporated, civil society body, supported as necessary (for finance and administration purposes) by a small network of public organizations in Europe, North America, and Costa Rica.

- A detailed Transition Plan would be developed with strategies timelines designed to move the Initiative dramatically forward in alignment with the "Four E's," the unifying goals for the new Phase 3.

The implementation of these decisions began on 1 January 2006. Progress on the "Transition to Phase 3" can be tracked at the Initiative's website: See <http://www.earthcharter.org> and follow the links to the Transition weblog.
The Earth Charter Initiative is funded primarily by public sector grants and individual donations. It must be noted that many organizations, all over the world, contribute significantly -- with money as well as with time, strategic linkages and expertise -- to advancing the Initiative’s objectives in their regions; but their contribution is not reflected in this financial statement. In addition, significant direct costs for the international programs and projects of the Earth Charter Secretariat (as Earth Charter International was known from 2000-2005) have often been paid directly from donor to service provider, without ever registering in the formal income and expense statements of the Earth Charter Initiative. Examples include direct payments from donors to printers to support publication expenses, direct payments from donor agencies and government to conference hosting organizations, and salary expenses for people working in national-level organizations but acting in support of international programming.

An analysis of the Initiative’s finances performed as part of the external 2005 Strategic Review revealed that if we were to include such direct donor-to-service-provider payments in just three countries -- Costa Rica, the United States, and the Netherlands -- the total budget for the Initiative would be twelve times greater than it appears here.

Finally, the Initiative is very grateful to The University for Peace in Costa Rica, which hosts the Secretariat office and provides it with administrative services, office space, and technical support, as an in-kind contribution. The value of this annual contribution is estimated to be USD 60,000.

This Financial Statement for the Secretariat over the past five years offers, therefore, only a partial view of the Initiative’s “real” budget, and demonstrates how extraordinarily cost-effective the organization has been by operating as a "coordinating catalyst" for an enormous amount of other activity that happens on behalf of the Earth Charter.

### Financial Statement - Earth Charter Secretariat - 2001-2005

**Income and Expenditures (USD)**

*for the Years Ended 31 October 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004; and December 31, 2005*

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<td><strong>52,994.19</strong></td>
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The Earth Charter Initiative: Governance and Staff in Transition

The Earth Charter Commission, originally formed in 1997, retains authority over the text of the Earth Charter and advises the Earth Charter Initiative, but the Commission itself does not have governance authority over the Initiative.

This report documents the year 2005, and from 2000 to 2005, the Earth Charter Initiative was formally governed by an international Steering Committee, appointed in 2000 by the Earth Charter Commission, and supported by a small Secretariat based in Costa Rica. In September of 2005, the Steering Committee made a number of restructuring decisions that began to be implemented in 2006:

On 1 January 2006, the Secretariat became "Earth Charter International," a network of regionally-based centers. The new "Earth Charter Center for Strategy and Communications" was opened in Stockholm, Sweden; and the former Secretariat office in Costa Rica became the "Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE."

On 10 March 2006, the Steering Committee officially handed over governing authority to the newly-created Earth Charter International Council.


The Earth Charter Commission

CO-CHAIRS
Mikhail Gorbachev, Russia
Mercedes Sosa, Argentina
Maurice Strong, Canada
Amadou Toumani Touré, Mali
A.T. Ariyaratne, Sri Lanka
Princess Basma Bint Talal, Jordan
Leonardo Boff, Brazil
Pierre Calame, France
Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Canada
Wakako Hironaka, Japan
John Hoyt, USA
Yolanda Kakabadse, Ecuador
Ruud Lubbers, The Netherlands
Wangari Maathai, Kenya
Elizabeth May, Canada
Federico Mayor, Spain
Shridath Ramphal, Guyana
Henriette Rasmussen, Greenland
Steven Rockefeller, USA
Mohamed Sahnoun, Algeria
Awraham Soetendorp, The Netherlands
Pauline Tangiora, New Zealand/Aotearoa
Erna Witoelar, Indonesia
Kamla Chowdhry, India (In memoriam)

Governance and Executive Staff 2000 - 2005

EARTH CHARTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Committee Co-Chairs
Yolanda Kakabadse, Ecuador
Ruud Lubbers, The Netherlands
Steven Rockefeller, USA
Kamla Chowdhry, India (In memoriam)

Committee Members
Rick Clugston, USA
Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Canada
Wakako Hironaka, Japan
Maximo Kalaw, Philippines
Alexander Likholot, Russia
Wangari Maathai, Kenya
Brendan Mackey, Australia*
Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Hungary*
Mohamed Sahnoun, Algeria
Erna Witoelar, Indonesia*

* Added in November 2005

EXECUTIVE STAFF
Mirian Vilela, Executive Director, Earth Charter International Secretariat
Governance and Executive Staff
2006

EARTH CHARTER INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Council Co-Chairs
Steven Rockefeller (United States)
Erna Witoelar (Indonesia)

Council Members
Zainab Bangura (Sierra Leone)
Mateo Castillo (Mexico)
Rick Clugston (USA)
Marienella Curi (Bolivia)
Camila Argolo Godinho^ (Brazil)
Wakako Hironaka (Japan)
Li Lailai (Peoples Republic of China)
Song Li (Peoples Republic of China/USA)
Alexander Likhotal+, (Russia/Switzerland)
Ruud Lubbers (Netherlands)
Brendan Mackey (Australia)
Julia Marton-Lefèvre (Hungary/Costa Rica)
Elizabeth May (Canada)

Oscar Motomura (Brazil)
Dumisani Nyoni^ (Zimbabwe)
Henriette Rasmussen (Greenland)
Mohamed Sahnoun (Algeria)
Kartikeya Sarabhai (India)
Tommy Short* (USA)
Mary Evelyn Tucker (USA)
Razeena Wagiet (Republic of South Africa)

^ Founding Organization - Green Cross International
* Founding Organization - Earth Council Alliance
+ Youth Representative

EXECUTIVE STAFF
Alan AtKisson, International Transition Director
Mirian Vilela, Director, Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at Upeace
Note: This chart is preliminary and subject to revision pending meeting of the International Council in April 2006.
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