



Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

A Regional Statistical System in the Context of a Monetary and Economic Union

Implications for the Governance and Coordination of the Attendant NSSs

Caribbean Thematic Conference
Managing a Statistical Organisation in Times of Change
25 to 27 November, 2019



Aggregate of NSSs in a geographical grouping of countries

Regional statistical System

Manages a single currency

Monetary Union

Attends to transparency and accountability

Governance

Inter-connected entities that produce nationally consistent data for one version of the truth

National statistical system

Has protocols for the free movement of factors of production

Economic Union

Manifests as efficient processes and effective results

Coordination

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OECS 7: ECEU

Antigua and Barbuda Montserrat

Dominica St Kitts and Nevis

Grenada Saint Lucia

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Anguilla

OECS 8: ECCU



OECS 9: OECS Region

British Virgin Islands

OECS 12:
OECS Member states

Martinique

Guadeloupe

Saint Martin



OECS 7: ECEU

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OECS 9: OECS Region

British Virgin Islands



Revised Treaty of Basseterre

Section 4.2: The Member States shall “*endeavour to coordinate, harmonise and undertake joint actions and pursue joint policies particularly in the fields of – ... (s) statistics; (t) institutional arrangements for economic consultation and information dissemination*”

Article 29-2(b): ... *the functioning of the OECS Commission under this protocol will be as follows: (b) collection, collation, analysis and distribution of all information pertinent to the working of the Economic Union.*

Eastern Caribbean
Statistical System:
requires country
comparable data

Regional statistical
System

Eastern Caribbean
Currency Union:
Eastern Caribbean dollar

Monetary Union

OECS/ECCB governance
arrangements;
9 Member States'
statistics law

Governance

9 Member States'
ministries, departments,
agencies

National statistical
system

Eastern Caribbean
Economic Union:
Five freedoms

Economic Union

Regional and national
mechanisms and
meetings

Coordination

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Features and Statistical Requirements of the Monetary Union and the Economic Union

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ECEU

- Pursuing a single economic and financial space
- Seven Protocol Member States
- Five freedoms and attendant rights
- Has common social and environmental sustainability policies
- Governance arrangement
 - ❖ *OECS Authority*
 - ❖ *Economic Affairs Council*
 - ❖ *Council of Ministers*
 - ❖ *Commission*
- Requires comparable data to monitor and measure progress toward full economic integration:



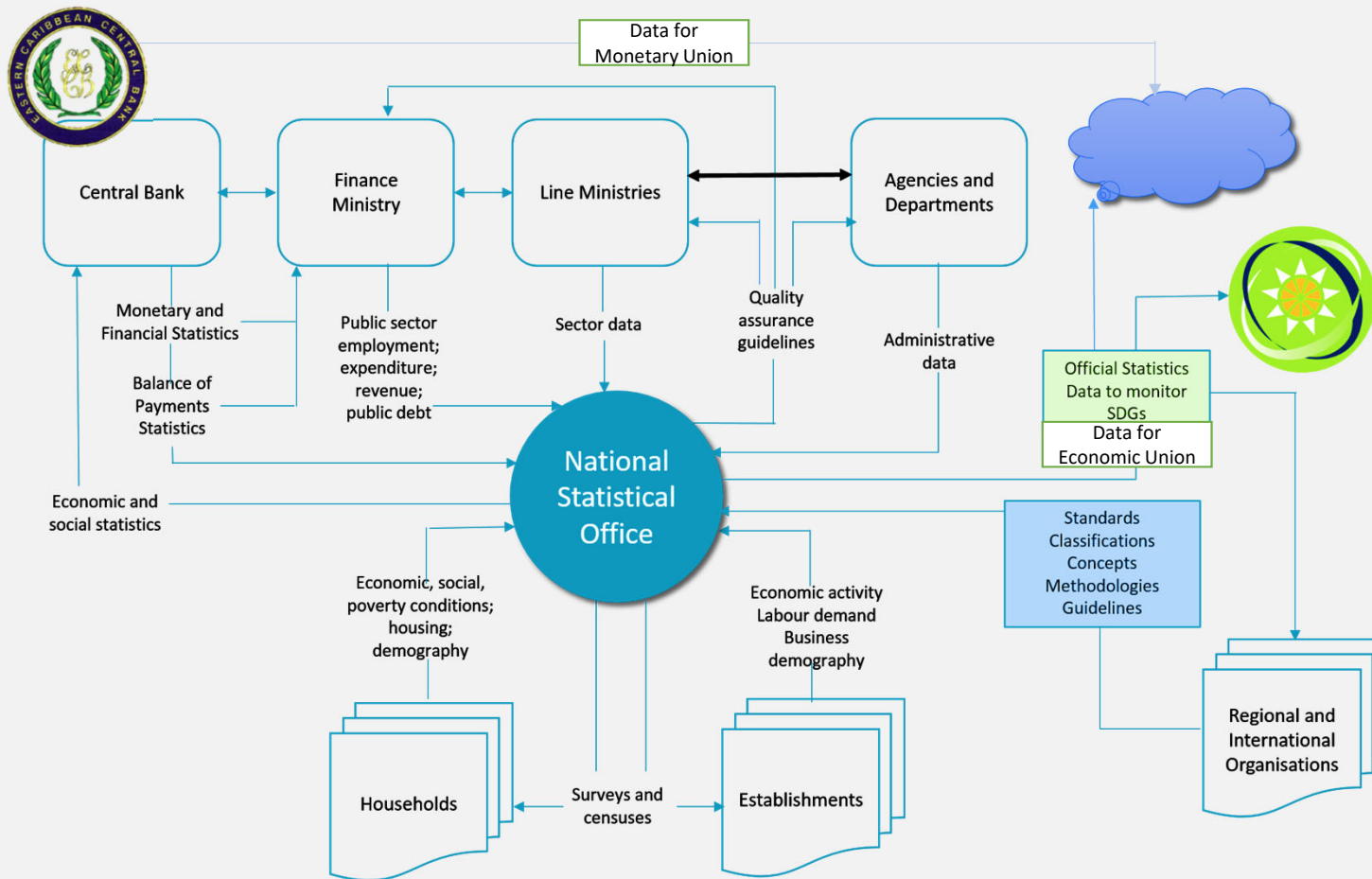
ECCU

- a single economic and financial space
- Eight Member states
- monetary, fiscal, incomes, economic policy
- A common currency
- Supervises the financial system
- Establishes monetary benchmarks and fiscal targets
- Governance arrangements
 - ❖ *Monetary Council*
 - ❖ *Board*
- Produces monetary and financial statistics
- Requires comparable economic data

The Eastern Caribbean Statistical System and its Attendant NSSs

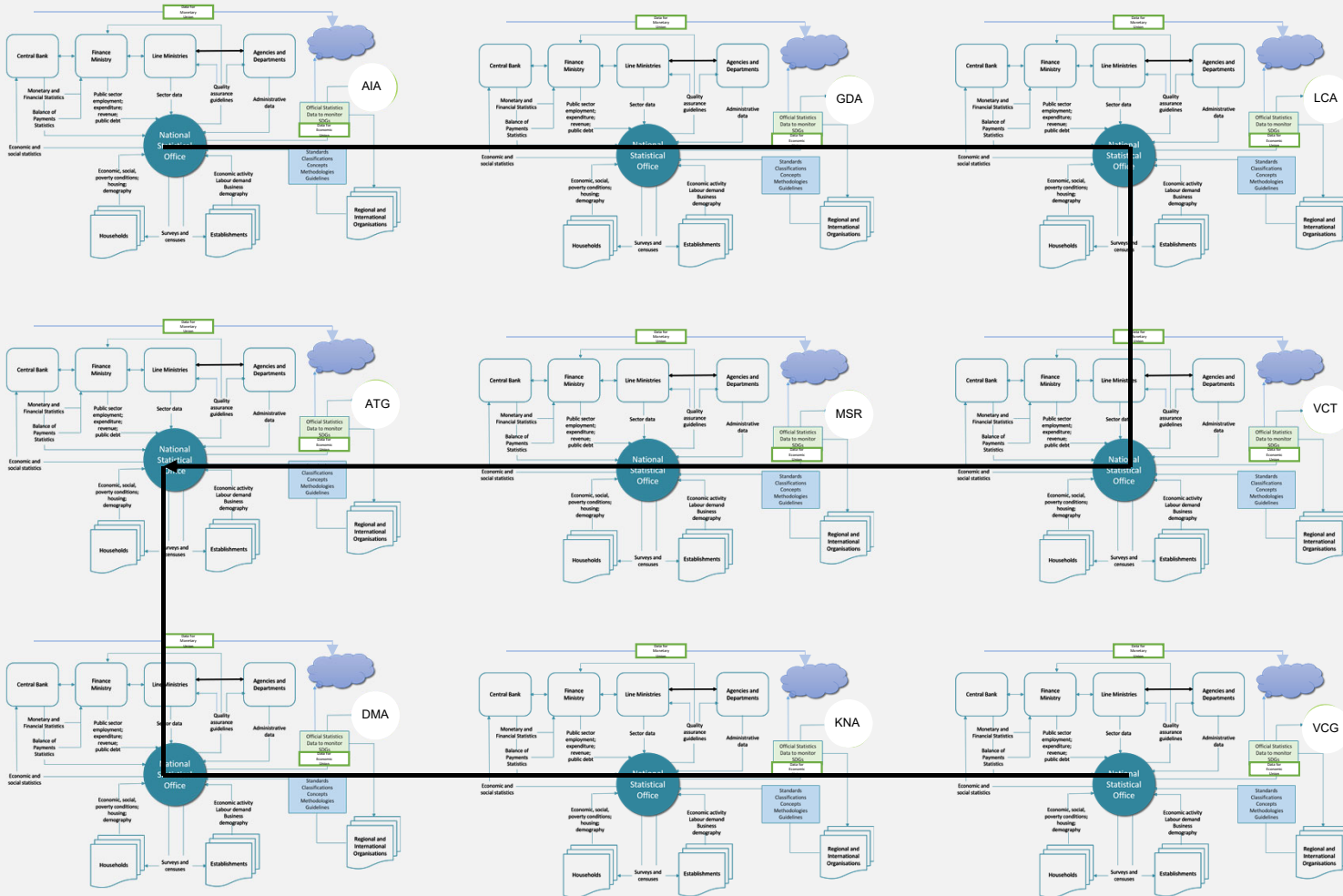
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The **national statistical system** (NSS) is the ensemble of statistical organisations and units within a country that **jointly** collect, process and disseminate official statistics on behalf of national government

OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms



What are the requisite mechanisms, arrangements and protocols to integrate the NSSs?

Governance and Coordination of the NSS

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Aspects to be considered

Governance: integrity and credibility

- Legislation
- Regulations
- Binding decisions
- Code of practice
- Guiding principles
- Oversight
- Quality assurance
- Reporting requirements

Coordination: synergy and efficiency

- Cooperation
- Priority-setting
- Responsibilities
- Common practices and skills
- Linkages among the data producers
- Focus on shared results
- Process efficiency

Implications for RSS-NSS Governance

Regional Level

- Prepare minimum requirements for national legislation;
- Establish oversight and directional mechanism;
- Direct the development, production and dissemination of statistics must be binding;
- Seek approval from the highest authority (i.e OECS Authority/EAC);
- Publish an approved multi-year programme of work; with updates;

National Level

- Enact fit-for-purpose legislation;
- Establish a national governance arrangement;
- Publish an approved multi-year programme of work;
- Seek approval from highest authority (e.g Parliament ?)
- Publish updates and results;

Implications for RSS-NSS Coordination

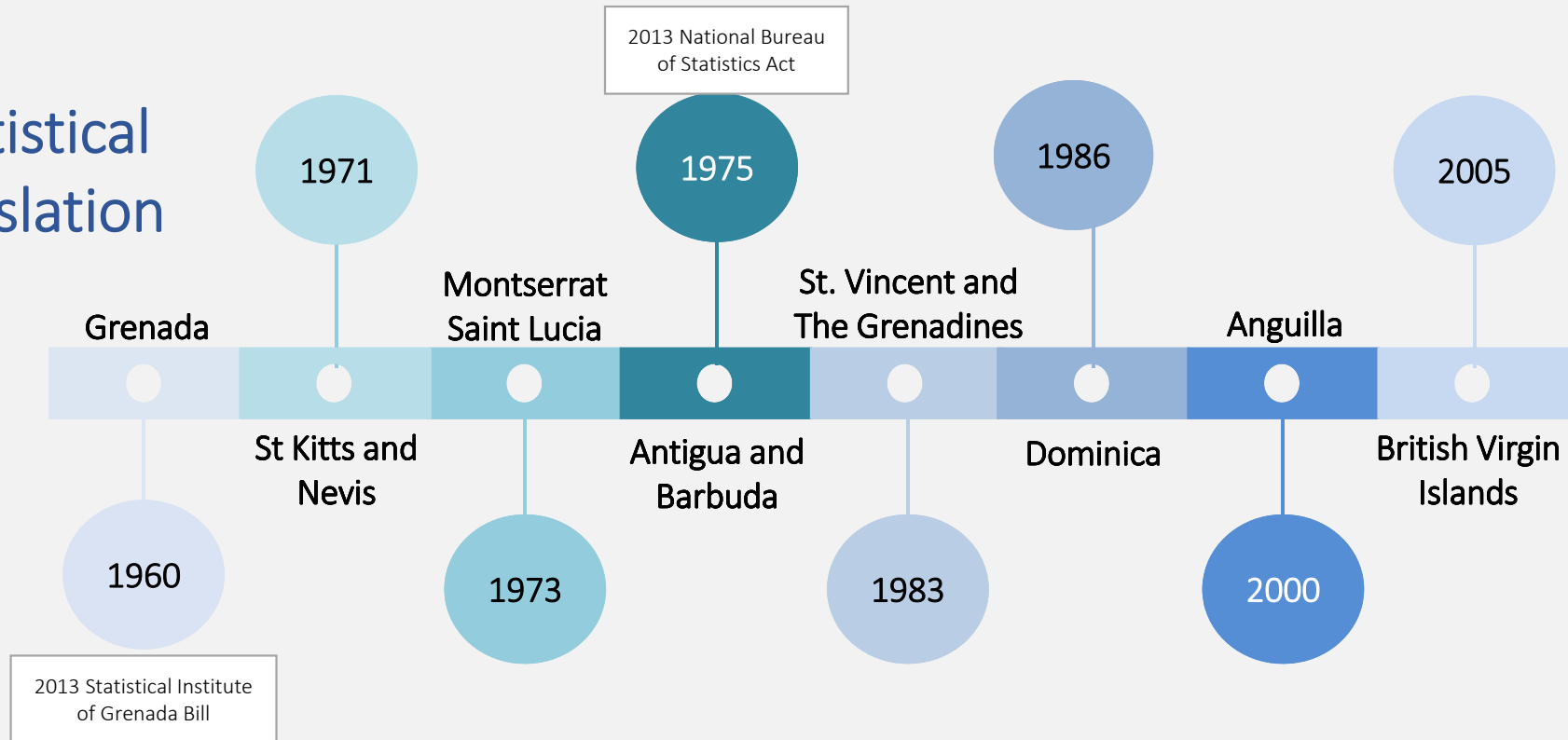
Regional Level

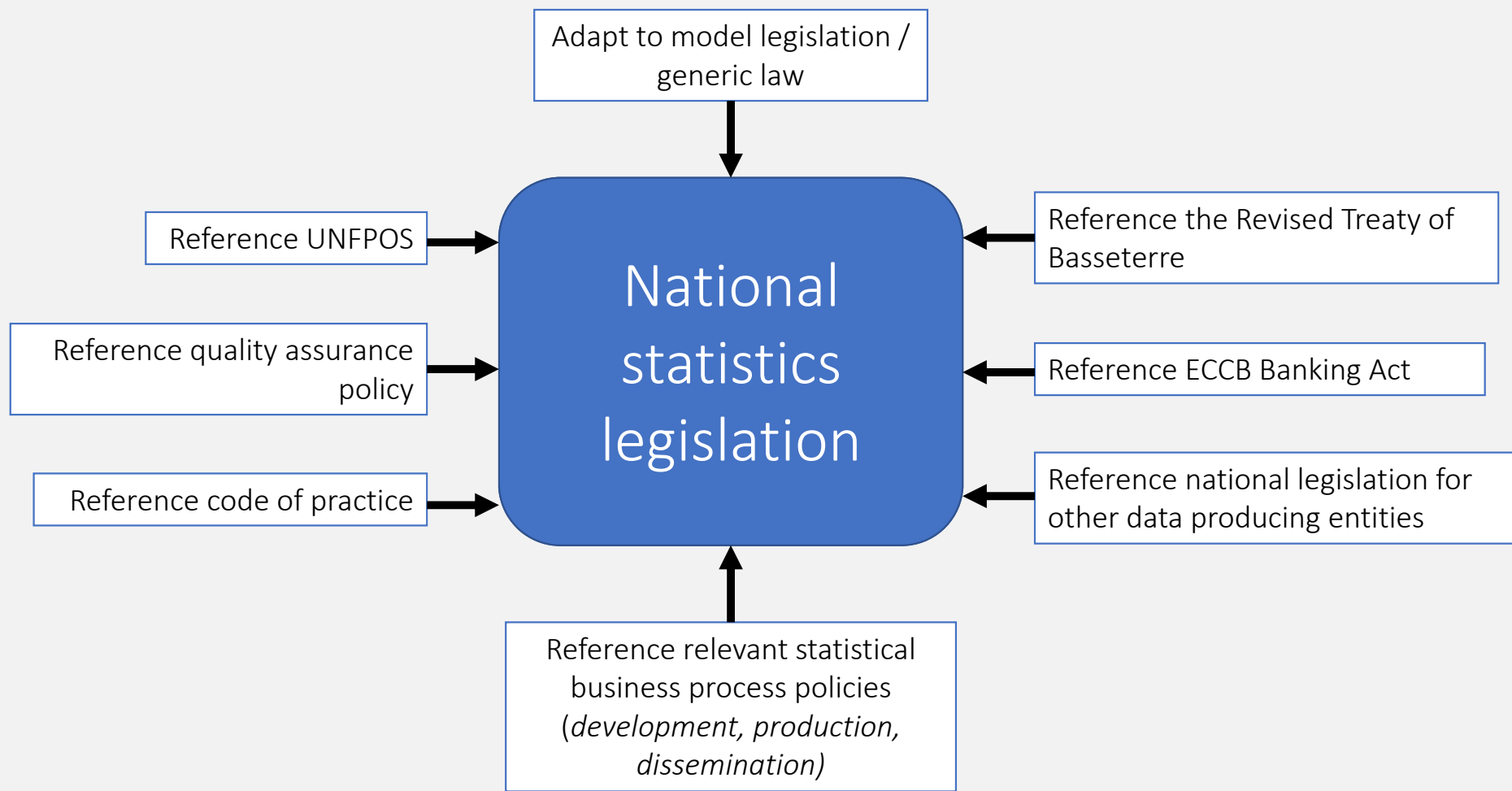
- Co-led by OECSC/ECCB
- Establish a regional coordinating mechanism;
- Have consultations with NSOs;
- Prepare multi-year programme of work for statistical development (e.g RSDS);
- Seek approval from NSOs;
- Have regular events (e.g meetings) to assess progress;

National Level

- Led by NSO Head
- Establish a coordination body
- Have consultations with producers and users;
- Prepare multi-year programme of work (e.g NSDS);
- Seek approval from coordinating body;
- Have regular events (e.g meetings) to assess progress;

Statistical Legislation





Desired Future State of the OECS RSS and Attendant NSSs

RSS

- The OECS Commission is recognised as an effective and **influential leader** of the *Eastern Caribbean Statistical System (ECSS)*;
- The ECSS **regulates, directs, and oversees** the development, production and dissemination of official statistics;
- Regional mechanisms are institutionalised to **safeguard the quality and comparability** of official statistics;
- **One region-one figure**, available simultaneously;

NSSs

- The NSO in each Member State is branded and recognised as the **trusted leader** of the NSS;
- MDAs are inter-dependent and share statistical capabilities to respond to their country's demand for **official statistics**;
- **One country-one figure**, available simultaneously;
- Official statistics **professionalised** as a discipline complete with competencies, code of practice;
- The NSO in each Member State has strong leadership and good management; adequate financial resources; information technology and workforce capabilities that enable it to be **responsive** for the long-term.





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