



**ITAC 2022**  
INTERNATIONAL TRANSPARENCY AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE

A meaningful civic  
towards bringing su  
development

# CONFERENCE REPORT

A MEANINGFUL CIVIC PARTICIPATION TOWARDS  
BRINGING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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# ITAC 2022

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPARENCY AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE - 2022

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# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>CAG</b>	Control and Auditor General	<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>CBMS</b>	Central Budget Management System	<b>No.</b>	Number
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>PAC</b>	Public Accounts Committee
<b>FBOs</b>	Faith Based Organizations	<b>PCCB</b>	Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau
<b>FYDP III</b>	Five Year National Development Plan - Phase 3 of 2021/22 to 2025/26	<b>PPRA</b>	Public Procurement Regulatory Authority
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>PWDs</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>H.E.</b>	Her/ His Excellence	<b>SDC</b>	Swiss Development Cooperation
<b>Hon.</b>	Honorable	<b>SL</b>	Sign Language
<b>HRBA</b>	Human Rights-Based Approach	<b>SLIs</b>	Sign Language Interpreters
<b>IEF</b>	Institute of Economic Affairs	<b>TAESA</b>	Tanzania Employment Services Agency
<b>ITAC</b>	International Transparency and Accountability Conference	<b>TTMS</b>	Transition Technologies Managed Services
<b>LGRCS</b>	Local Government Revenue Collection Information System	<b>TZS</b>	Tanzania Shillings
<b>MUSE</b>	Mfumo wa Ulipaji Serikalini/ Government Digital Payment System	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>NAOT</b>	National Audit Office of Tanzania	<b>URT</b>	United Republic of Tanzania
		<b>WAJIBU</b>	WAJIBU- Institute of Public Accountability

PART ONE

# GENERAL INTRODUCTION



A meaningful civic po  
toward building su  
development

## 1.1 MEANING AND ESSENCE OF ITAC

The International Transparency Accountability Conference (ITAC) are annual international conferences which are designed as a mechanism of bringing together numerous strategic stakeholders to deliberate on, share experiences and recommend on the best ways to collect and utilize public resources in bringing about meaningful and sustainable development of the country.

These conferences are organized by WAJIBU- Institute of Public Accountability (WAJIBU) in aiming to offer the participants a high-level overview of the global trends and practices in **transparency** and **accountability** especially on the proper management of public resources.

This report presents key issues that emerged from the 2022 International Transparency and Accountability Conference (ITAC), which was organized at the Gran Melia Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania, on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. The ITAC 2022 was the second in a row after the 2021 ITAC.

The essence of ITAC is to ensure the provision of timely, high-quality, cost-effective service delivery to the citizens, thereby holding those in public office accountable for their actions and misuse of power. It is WAJIBU's conviction that, the two aspects (i.e. transparency and accountability) are critical pathways to poverty reduction and enhancing development. This particular point was well emphasized throughout the ITAC 2022 conference; and that, it formed the gist of all deliberations as it is further clarified in this report.

It was observed during the conference that, as a way of ensuring that ITAC remains relevant to the prevailing global context, different conference themes are decided upon in a participatory manner by the stakeholders. The ITAC 2021 theme was *“transformation to a total culture of transparency and accountability”* which was intended to explore and instigate some discussions on issues that impede the flourishing of the culture of transparency and accountability in the country with a view of creating a total transformation in the process. On the other hand, the ITAC 2022's theme was on *‘meaningful civic participation towards bringing sustainable development.’* Therefore both the two ITAC's emphasized on transformation and sustainability.

**Lesson and Observation: WAJIBU ensured that topics delivered were relevant to the main ITAC 2022's theme, which in the end resulted in more focused deliberations**

It is observed that, the 2021 and 2022 ITAC conference themes cogently related as they both focused on addressing exploring available avenues in which transparency and accountability could be enhanced and therefore, contribute to the national developmental agenda. However, the 2022 ITAC was more specific in terms of who has to be involved in the process and the anticipated end results of the involvement. It is also observed that, the topics chosen for 2022 ITAC were very coherent and precise e.g. by considering the variables of the topics about the theme unlike the ones chosen for the ITAC 2021 conference, which were a bit patchy. Making all topics' variables matching to the main theme resulted in more focused deliberations leading into more practical and refined resolutions as it is clarified further in subsequent parts of this report.

## 1.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF ITAC 2022

The ITAC 2022 had the following three main objectives:-

- i) To increase participant's understanding of the concept of civic participation in the transparency and accountability space in order to enhance the country's development process.
- ii) To discuss on cross-cutting issues for meaningful civic participation in the development process.
- iii) To analyze and identify different approaches used with different actors in creating interest to citizens in their participation in the transparency and accountability agenda.

These three objectives were transcribed into the forms of the conference's topics, in which six main topics were presented and deliberated as indicated further below. The focus and contents of the 2022 conference was designed in achieving such objectives.

## 1.3 FOCUS AND CONTENTS OF ITAC 2022

ITAC 2022 was focused on building strong State and Non-state actors engagement that can improve learning and the effort to achieve sustainable development. A consideration was, among other things, the citizens' participation in the decision-making processes from local to national levels. The ITAC 2022 theme mentioned earlier was intended to instigate participants' views and opinions on issues that hinder meaningful civic participation in realizing this transformation.

Moreover, the power dynamics in public participation and the principles of civic participation in the transparency and accountability space in bringing about sustainable development in line with the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), etc. were explored.

As a way of deepening understanding and digging into the issue of civic engagement, seven different but related topics were chosen and presented for discussion as indicated below.

- i) Enhanced civic participation in bringing about transparency and accountability.
- ii) Do citizens understand their rights of participating in the country's development process?
- iii) The Role of Leadership in Enhancing Civic Participation in the Country's Development
- iv) Social Media and Civic Participation in Promotion of Social Accountability - The Good, the Bad and the Ugly!
- v) Game players; Re-assessing current civic engagement initiatives in Tanzania.
- vi) Human Rights Based Approach; The upshot for civic participation in the development process.
- vii) Anti - Corruption and Civic Participation - citizens' initiatives.

Some of the key and critical issues which guided presentations, analysis and discussions, demonstrated the essence of transparency and accountability to an ordinary citizen; contexts and factors to influence or enhance civic participation; and, the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) to mobilize citizen's participation in civic matters e.g. social accountability.





## 1.4 PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE

ITAC 2022 attracted physical participation of over 400 participants from Tanzania including Zanzibar, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, and South Africa. Out of whom, 41% of the participants were females while 59% were males. Additionally 74 participants participated virtually. A total of 71.6% had not attended the previous ITAC. During the session, the contents were shared through social media platforms (such as Twitter) and reached more than 9,393,160 netizens.

Other sub-issues presented were the role of duty bearers to respond to citizen's needs; the legal environment in support of civic participation e.g. access to information laws; possibilities of bringing on board all gender groups including marginalized populations; issues about human rights norms; protection of whistleblowers; corruption and leadership; etc.

Useful experiences on each topic were shared by the participants from different countries. A good example came from the South African's CSOs' coalition, which engages the Treasury (Ministry of Finance) on transparency and accountability issues relating to the public financial management in the country. They have recorded good progress in their partnership, exposing corruption and strengthening the country's PFM system.



The increase of physical attendees of ITAC 2022 of 400 participants from the 318 participants of ITAC 2021 being a surge of 20.5% signifies not only increased popularity of this international conference; but also, its usefulness in terms of the contents it brings for deliberations and impact on PFA. Another achievement was that, all participants who attended ITAC 2022 event were self-sponsored. This is yet another milestone and a strong indicator of the commitment and gaining prominence of ITAC both internally and internationally.

# Participants of the Conference

Tuesday 11 Wednesday 12 **October 2022**

 **400+** participants

400 participants from Tanzania including Zanzibar, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, and South Africa.



Effective participation of all relevant stakeholders has been an essential factor in ITAC preparations and arrangements. The inclusion of stakeholders in the ITAC 2022 was broadened in such a way that, apart from considering inter-countries representation, a due consideration was made to ensure the presence of men and women including persons with disabilities (PWDs); elderly; and youth from urban and rural areas of different regions. At least 1% of participants were PWDs and that, youth aged between 18 to 35 years, had a representation of almost 65% of all participants.

The presence of such groups was impactful especially in terms of bringing up gendered issues on civic participation. The youth were quite eloquent in claiming their space and sharing their views on their role and involvement in the development process of the country. Moreover, typical village women who participated in the conference had a chance to speak when they made quite strong points on the

challenges they face in-regard to access to justice, human rights and legal empowerment arising from the lack of civic engagement in the operations of the state.

Besides, a total of nine (9) experts were invited as presenters on the seven topics mentioned above; and, over twenty (20) participated as discussants. These were from different countries, professional backgrounds, work experiences, etc.



High profile leaders and dignitaries not only graced the conference through their physical attendance, but also, their patience in staying throughout the two-day event. These included, Their Excellences Ambassadors of Norway who spoke on the need for civic participation in enhancing gender inclusion and Switzerland who spoke on the need for civic participation in enhancing good governance; representatives of the some of the United Nations (UN) Agencies; the representatives of other development partners such as Germany, United States of America and Sweden; senior CSOs officials from Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Liberia and Rwanda; religious leaders of Christian and Islamic faith; Senior Government

Officials from Tanzania and Zambia and, WAJIBU's board chairperson Mr. Yona Kilagane. The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Mussa Azzan Zungu (MP) who was the guest of honour in the opening ceremony of the conference also took some hours during the first day of the conference. This showed relevance of the meeting sessions that these high-level dignitaries put to ITAC.

That assortment of the participants led to quite sparking debates and deliberations of the conference; and therefore, this made an input into useful views and opinions going forward with an agenda of civic participation. It is a lesson that, the broad inclusion of multi-stakeholders in conferences of this nature is more impactful more than merely having a bigger number of attendees. However, a much better way of making the conference's contents fully accessible to everyone e.g. language barriers will have to be addressed in due course. This is clarified further in the recommendation section of this report.

## 1.5 APPROACHES OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference used the approach of plenary sessions. This second ITAC had no breakaway sessions. The use of panel discussants made it easier for everyone to participate fully in the conference presentations and deliberations. Information and communication technology (ICT) was effectively utilized e.g. to aid the participation of other stakeholders who could not make it physically.

The digitalization of ITAC 2022 was in all stages of its planning to execution which included registration of participants; presentations; sharing of conference information and materials; receiving feedback on the way the participants assessed the form and contents of this conference by using the SUMMIT POINT App.

As a way of ensuring that the conference is disability inclusive, two professional sign language interpreters (SLIs) were hired to render such services to the participants who attended with hearing disability. The special seating arrangement was made to ensure that all participants with disabilities (PWDs) were accommodated and had inclusive interaction with the rest of the participants of the conference.

It has also been learnt that the use of ICT not only makes it easier for the participants to engage in the conference, but also, it is more cost-effective as it does not involve many expenses like the purchase of stationary and printings. WAJIBU plans to sustain this approach with some improvements including ensuring that, conference materials (i.e. program & presenters' profiles) are provided online and shared with the invited participants few days before the event date.

### 1.6.1 Introductory Remarks



Five high-profile leaders (dignitaries) made their remarks at the outset of the conference. These were (not in any order of importance/preference) the WAJIBU's Executive Director; the WAJIBU's Board Chairperson; the Her Excellency (H.E.) Ambassador of Norway in Tanzania; His Excellency (H.E.) Ambassador of Switzerland in Tanzania; and, Honourable Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the URT, who was the Chief Guest.

Unlike the usual ways in which special guests deliver their introductory remarks, the ones who attended the ITAC 2022 went further to share quite useful insights relating to the conference's theme. For instance, H.E. Ambassador of Norway, Ms. Elisabeth Jacobsen shared her views on gender inclusion in civic participation; while, H.E. Ambassador of Switzerland, Mr. Didier Chassot, shared his views on good governance. Key issues, suggestions and recommendations gathered from their speeches are reflected in part two of this report.

## 1.6 SEGMENTS AND PROCEDURES OF THE CONFERENCE

The ITAC 2022 had four main segments, namely; the (i) the preliminary or introductory section; (ii) the reflection section which comprised of presentations and analysis of topics mentioned earlier; (iii) deliberations in the form of plenary discussions; and, (iv) the ending part of it, which included the adoption of conference resolutions and closing remarks.



Participants



## 1.6.2 Reflection and Analysis

There were seven presentations (sessions) which covered numerous topics and issues mentioned earlier on. In each session, there were at least two discussants. The presenters and discussants were from Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe (with some experiences in South Africa as well).



The conference presentations relied on practical experiences the presenters and discussant thought worth sharing especially on success stories, case studies and barriers to civic participation. It was observed that, the presentations were quite insightful and that, the discussants managed well to amplify the perspectives, which in return stirred debates during the plenary sessions. Key issues, suggestions and recommendations gathered from their presentations/discussions are reflected in part two of this report.

## 1.6.3 Plenary Discussions



After every session, there was a plenary discussion which gave an opportunity for the rest of the participants of ITAC 2022 to share their views including posing some questions. A total of 39 plenary members contributed to the plenary discussions of whom 9 (23.1%) were females.

At least 75% of the plenary discussions was dominated by youth for the obvious reason that they found the issues presented and analyzed to be useful to them. WAJIBU learnt from the participants' enthusiasm that, more time for plenary discussions should be allocated in future ITAC events. Issues that emerged during the plenary sessions are presented as part of the key findings in part two of this report.

## 1.6.4 Resolutions and Closing Remarks

The final segment of ITAC 2022 comprised of resolutions, post-conference assessment and eventually, closing remarks. The ten-plus resolutions were presented and adopted for action. A copy of the conference resolutions is enclosed herewith. The conference closing remarks were made by the Regional Commissioner of the Arusha Region, who was represented by the Regional Administrative Secretary Mr. Missaile A. Mussa.

## 1.7 OVERALL ASSESMENT OF THE ITAC 2022

In comparison with how the organization of the 2021 ITAC was done, the ITAC 2022 was better organized as there were progressive improvements undertaken including the improved branding of WAJIBU and the conference and the increased adoption to technology in planning, organizing and management of the conference.

The previous and this year's post-conference feedbacks demonstrate this observation. A team of rapporteurs, being an independent external consultant with wide experience in documentation and analysis of forums of this nature, is of the view that, there were several of indications or rather, factors which rendered ITAC 2022 to be a distinctive and remarkable conference. Such ones include:-

i) Publications: supply of publications on the table and at the stalls outside the venue; plus through the SUMMIT POINT

- ii) App. made the information accessible.
- ii) Holistic: inclusion of multi-stakeholders including duty bearers and the assortment of participants from different countries mentioned earlier gave ITAC 2022 a strong international look. The inclusion of PWDs, youth, etc. was highly commended by some of the participants.
- iii) Choice of the guest of honour: it was ideal to bring in the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania as he is involved with the organ which not only makes laws, but also advices the government. Therefore, recommendations stemming out of the conference would be easily addressed.
- iv) Presenters and discussants: were all persons of high caliber, quite conversant with the subject matter they dealt with and have long-standing experiences in the field of civic engagement and human rights. A focus on practical issues on civic participation from their perspectives was ideal and well-articulated.



Additionally

**74+** participants  
participated virtually.

**A total of 71.6% had not attended the previous ITAC.**



On the other hand, the findings from participants' post-conference assessment as gathered from the said App, indicate that:-

- i) An overall assessment of the form and contents of ITAC 2022: A total of 65.9% rated it excellent; 25.9% moderate; and, only 2.4% insufficient (poor). This signified an achievement of ITAC 2022 objectives by almost 70%.
- ii) Topics of the conference which were most interesting or useful: A total of 41.2% of participants mentioned the topic on, "The role of leadership"; followed by 18.2% who mentioned the topic on, "Enhancing Civic Participation"; and the topic on, "Rights of citizens participating (10.6%)". Other topics scored less than 10%.
- iii) The rate or extent to which ITAC 2022 achieved its objectives: Majority (54.1%) of participants rated the level of

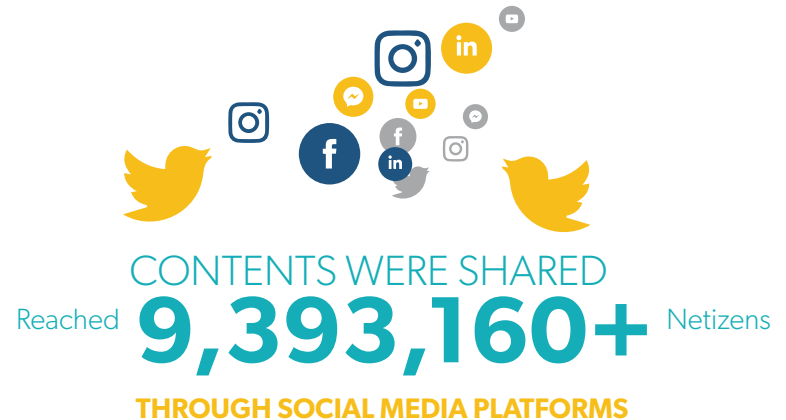
achievement as 'excellent' or 'very high'; 40% viewed it being moderate; and, only 1.2% rated it insufficiently achieved.

- iv) The extent to which knowledge acquired will add value to participants' work: Again, the 60.7% participants said definitely yes; 34.5% viewed it as being mostly while 4.8% said 'somehow'.

As explained further in part three of this report, some suggestions on coordination and contents of future ITACs are as follows:-

- i) A need to find ways in which conference materials would be more disability-friendly.

The use of the English language during conference deliberations is fine as this is an international conference. However, the Swahili speakers should also be accommodated especially because the majority of Tanzanians are not that conversant with the English language.



PART TWO

**PRESENTATIONS,  
DELIBERATIONS, EMERGED KEY  
ISSUES AND RESOLUTIONS**





## 2.1 SYNOPSIS OF KEY ISSUES DELIBERATED

The theme on meaningful civic engagement that engulfed the discussions during the ITAC 2022 conference, was no doubt topical and therefore very relevant contextually. From a general perspective, the conference found that, there were some socio-economic, political, legal, institutional, policy and cultural barriers which hindered effective civic participation in a way that, some of the groups, especially marginalized women, youth and PWDs, have not been effectively involved. Moreover, the challenges pertaining to CSOs' capacities to drive the agenda e.g. to mobilize the community and the inability of communities themselves to take actions e.g. due to social impunity (cultural norms) were unsurfaced on the spotlights.

### **Clarification: Overview of Key Issues Deliberated**

Key among other critical issues deliberated on was the importance of institutional and legal frameworks to set up enabling environment for the civic engagement to work out as one of the drivers of sustainable development. Challenges to pertaining capacities of oversight institutions and mechanisms e.g. to enforce recommendations on the reports of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG); and, some weaknesses in legal framework e.g. governing access to information repeatedly emerged as issues of concern. However, the absence of strong partnership between State and non-state actors especially concerning lack of reinforcement of transparency and

accountability of public fund' management, appeared to be one of the main attributing factors. On this concern, a lesson was shared from South Africa whereby the two party's to the transparency and accountability agenda seem to work together quite well.

Moreover, there were some lessons mentioned on how community-based accountability mechanisms such as Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) committees worked out – to send a message that, if the whole agenda is made people-centred, civic engagement could practically work out for the intended purpose. As the Guest of Honour to the conference emphasized, the Constitution of the URT of 1977 has several provisions on civic engagement on the premises that, the legitimacy of the State lies on the people (Article 8 (c)).

From a political point of view, the conference was informed of the presence of the deliberate efforts by the current regime under H.E. Samia S. Hassan, the President of the URT which unfolds into the opening up of civic space. A critical question remains though on the best way all these opportunities could be utilized amidst of other barriers hindering effective civic engagement. Subsequent sub-sections of this part of the report, reports more on all these and other issues albeit in brief form.

## 2.2 KEY ISSUES WHICH EMERGED FROM ITAC 2022

A dozen of issues emerged from the key opening remarks, presentations, discussions and dialogues (proceedings) of the ITAC 2022 as it is hinted above. Such issues could be clustered into five

broad categories, namely; the capacity of CSOs and communities; legal and policy environments; institutional capacities of oversight and accountability bodies; human rights and corruption; partnership and coalition building; and, miscellaneous ones.

Below is a summary of key issues that were picked from the proceedings of the two days conference. These issues include commentaries by all participants who spoke during the plenary discussions.

### **2.2.1 Essence and Enforcement of Meaningful Civic Participation**

One of the ITAC 2022's specific objectives was to increase participants' understanding of civic participation, especially in line with transparency and accountability for development purposes. The characteristics of what should entail 'meaningful civic participation' were suggested for the stakeholders to take into consideration when pursuing their interventions in developmental processes. Two of the aspects mentioned in the conference were (i) inclusivity of all concerned groups; and, (ii) incentives as a factor of civic engagement.

It was stated that, meaningful participation in the county's development process means making the process inclusive to all citizens. It is a question of equality of opportunities. Therefore, the whole agenda e.g. on transparency and accountability, should be people-centred, i.e. owned, managed and driven by the people themselves. It was also emphasized that, civic participation should be considered as a core component of good corporate governance whereby, if institutionalized well, it can be a key driver of better services, internal stability and peoples' trust in their government.

### **Emphasis: Participation should be not only meaningful, but also effective**

In the course of conference deliberations, one participant cited a remark from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, who once said (source was not indicated) that, *'to be meaningful and effective, civic participation must not be merely formal or tokenistic; it must have an actual impact on decisions; and be timely and sustained. And, crucially, participation must be inclusive, extending participation most especially to marginalized and vulnerable groups.'* [Emphasis added by rapporteurs].

Key suggestions to enable a meaningful civic engagement were mentioned by the conference to include: -

- i) A need to explore diverse ways of involving citizens as there are no one-size fits all for civic participation. Possible ways include referendum on legal reforms, the use of digital dialogues (platforms), etc.
- ii) A need to invest not only in awareness, but also in the ability and empowerment of citizen to have informed civic engagement and actions.
- iii) A need for a clear linkage between transparency, accountability and livelihood (i.e. value creation). The conference observed that, citizens participate where there is a perceived value (incentives).
- iv) A need to consider and enhance gender inclusion and unleash the potential. This one could be realized through having bold law-makers who are capable of translating good intentions

into concrete actions and fostering reforms; considering civic participation as a backbone of democracy and development; and, having an active civil society sector.

## **2.2.2 Constructive Partnership between State and Non-State Actors**

A need to build and maintain strong and constructive partnerships or synergy between State and Non-state actors came out from almost all participants. The non-state actors in this context were mentioned to include CSOs, media, trade unions, faith-based organizations (FBOs) and the private sector as well. Cross-country learning (cross-breeding) on ways in which the constructive engagement could be designed and pursued across the region was emphasized as well.

Moreover, the importance of having an equilibrium (mutual reinforcement of interests) between supply and demand sides - duty bearers and right holders was mentioned by the conference to be one of the factors to consider for the partnership between those actors to work. However, a concern on some of the leaders to shy away from meeting people emerged as an issue of concern. A participant from Liberia said that, in his country, *'people who ask critical questions to their leaders are termed to be on opposition side ... therefore, avoided.'*

### **Best practice: The Vulekamali Coalition of South Africa**

The possibility of having State and Non-state actors working together on transparency and accountability issues was shared by citing an example of the South African model. It was explained that, in that country, there is an existing synergy between CSOs and the government. The CSOs have mobilized themselves into a 'Vulekamali Coalition' (online portal). The 'Vulekamali' literally means *vuleka*

(open) and *mali* (money)). In this partnership, the Treasury allows and fully involves the coalition in the budgetary process and that, all information is made available for the CSOs to analyze and come up with suggestions for improvement accordingly. The partnership came after a series of consultations and was reinforced when the CSOs came together - a common voice. This was seen as a good lesson to be replicated in other countries.

Key suggestions to facilitate practical and constructive partnerships or interactions between State and non-state actors were mentioned by the conference to include the following:-

- i) A need for holistic approach in which there is supportive government, a responsible private sector, dynamic civil society and associations, free media and active academia, etc.
- ii) Making constructive interaction as a basis of democracy and prosperity - not as an ad hoc agenda. This can be ensured through legal reform.
- iii) A need for Tanzania to make itself part of the global Open Government Partnership as an important champion of transparency, citizen inclusion and public accountability across the globe.
- iv) Making effective use of the private sector and the media as well as the CSO sector has proved to be useful in promoting the agenda of public financial accountability in Tanzania e.g. exposing corruption and unethical practices.

### 2.2.3 Vibrancy of Civil Society Sector Including Media

The role of the civil society sector to pursue civic engagement was at the center of all conference deliberations due to the inherent responsibilities of this sector e.g. acting as a bridge between duty bearers and right holders. Two critical challenges hindering the sector from active engagement in civic issues were mentioned, namely (i) perceived shrinking or closing of civic space which is attributed to unfriendly legal frameworks; and, (ii) insufficient institutional capacity of CSOs to fully engage e.g. mobilizing communities.



On the first one, the conference noted the presence of laws with some repressive provisions including the Tanzanian laws governing online content, statistics and media. Other countries do not have an adequate legal framework to support the work of CSOs e.g. absence of an access to information law in Zambia. Moreover, there are some challenges to the enforcement of existing laws e.g. to ensure that

important information like citizen's budgets is published and made available to the public promptly. The accuracy of data published was mentioned to be another concern e.g. Kenyan experience with their public portal on public finance.

The institutional weaknesses of CSOs including the media were mentioned to include the inability to coordinate voices for common goals e.g. in a form of coalitions or alliances like the way South African CSOs did (explained above); and, insufficient skills or boldness to engage in technical and sensitive issues e.g. through investigative journalism - which would have revealed embezzlements of public funds or at least informing the public. Such weaknesses were linked to perceived impunity and therefore, insufficient accountability.

Key suggestions to enable rejuvenate and maintain the vibrancy of CSOs concerning civic engagement were mentioned by the conference to include the following:-

- i) Pursuing systematically and consistently possibilities of collaborating with the State actors e.g. using existing structures and statutory avenues; and, also advocating for the presence of conducive legal and policy frameworks which support such partnerships.
- ii) A need for CSOs to find ways of gaining credence through their work.
- iii) Providing concrete feedback loop by avoiding ad hoc - based approaches or relationships; and instead, focusing on two-sided relationships with clear principles of mutuality.
- iv) Generating knowledge and relying on evidence-based findings e.g. statistics to inform on best or feasible strategies reflecting contexts of each country.

- v) Exploring some avenues of strategies including effective use of digital platforms (dialogues).
- vi) Ensuring there is effective feedback mechanisms; use of informal civic education; reinforcing a bottom-up approach; etc.

## 2.2.4 Modalities of Community Engagement

The conference observed that community engagement is key to achieving the core purposes of development. It was also stated that, participation is not only a constitutional right e.g. as enshrined in the Constitution of the URT of 1977, but also is a mechanism for supporting the realization of other rights including the right to development and human rights.

### Clarification: Perceived barriers and trends of community engagement

Barriers to effective community engagement (participation) in developmental processes were mentioned to include (i) approaches e.g. upward-downward, which logically suggest superimposition of ideas from the top; and, (ii) lack of confidence or assertiveness of community members e.g. to hold their leaders accountable. Commenting on the latter factors, a lady participant said that, *'citizens fear to question their leaders ... there is a tendency of some leaders to react against those who question them.'* In her and others' views, there is a need to address the fear among the citizens. The capacity of CSOs repeatedly came into the spotlight in this as well. For instance, at the time when charges associated with mobile phone transactions were perceived to be souring, little interventions were seen coming from the CSOs; instead, voices and critics were coming from social media, which were not organized anyway. An allegiance to cultural norms e.g. not to criticizing elders was also mentioned as one of the issues of concern.

Moreover, there were some concerns mentioned in the conference deliberations that, citizenry participation is steadily worsening even for the matters which directly affect the community members. For instance, people have now been disregarding elections e.g. considering the voters' apathy and turnout level of village/street and other public meetings organized within their very vicinities.

Key suggestions on practical ways of igniting community mobilization and engagement were deliberated at the conference to include the following:-

- i) Broadening civic participation by not only involving the citizens, but also, consulting, educating and empowering them to be champions of their own destinies.
- ii) Simplified intervention methods should be preferred e.g. clear understanding of the advantages of civic participation concepts and essence of the same e.g. it is a good practice that WAJIBU prepares and publishes findings of the CAG's report in simplified Kiswahili language for a wider readership of the majority of citizens.
- iii) Investing more in mobilizing and organizing citizens around issues they care about for this motivates them to engage more proactively and effectively. For instance, developing models that create political empowerment and social movements for the masses.
- iv) Looking at global forces while addressing the youth participation. Such forces include the market forces,

technology (with artificial intelligence taking over), education systems that favour the west, women empowerment, etc.

- v) Addressing social barriers e.g. social norms inhibit people from speaking against their leaders/elders. Moreover, it is such social barriers which attribute to the exclusion of youth and women from public decision- making.
- vi) A need to explore some special measures e.g. adopting the timing of public meetings to fit the daily schedules of women or engaging youth where they regularly meet i.e. at sports clubs, through social media, etc.
- vii) Changing the approach by emphasizing on decentralization strategy e.g. bottom-up approach.
- viii) Ensuring that information provided e.g. on transparency and accountability issues is not only clear, but also accessible e.g. in user-friendly language or format. This is how South African partners managed to engage the communities.
- ix) Considering the effective use of social media as it is currently gaining prominence as the preferred tool for holding duty bearers accountable.
- x) Considering using informal ways of delivering civic education which is influential to the targeted communities e.g. moulding a culture of accountability right from the family or societal levels.
- xi) In relation to what has been listed above, consider possibilities of making use of strategic opportunities e.g. the majority of

Tanzanians are proud of being citizens of this country; also, support democratic values; and that, are religious believers. Strategies could bank on these attributes - to win their support (buying-in approach).

### **2.2.5 Influence of Legal and Policy Frameworks: Consideration of Civic Space**

The conference observed that, in general, the relationship between the State, private sector and civil society has been laden with high degree of mistrust and suspicion. This situation makes it fragile and confrontational, especially with CSOs specialized in issues to do with governance, rule of law, human rights and citizen participation.

#### **Clarification: Factors attributing to a weak relationship between State and non-state actors**

There are two factors mentioned in this situation (i) the CSOs are perceived as potential threats to State or political power; and, (ii) the absence of sufficient legal and policy environments for the CSOs to operate freely. The presence of laws with repressive provisions as said earlier, was mentioned to be a common characteristic across the region. For instance, while in Tanzania there are some concerns about the laws governing online content, statistics, media, etc., in Zambia, there are restrictive laws including the ones governing public order, cyber security, etc.

The efforts under the current Tanzania's 6<sup>th</sup> phase regime to restore democratic values were noticed and applauded as said earlier in this report. However, the presence of some laws with regressive provisions still remains a barrier to the opening of civic space. An option to use social media which appears to be effective was emphasized with

some precaution that, such platforms could distort information; are not easy to coordinate and monitor; and, the presence of restrictive online content regulations could jeopardize the situation.

Key suggestions on legal and policy frameworks in relation to their influence on civic space and therefore civic engagement as discussed in the conference included the following: -

- i) Need to have strong oversight institutions e.g. justice and accountability (oversight) bodies in order to enforce leadership and other issues e.g. ethics, efficiency, responsibility, human rights, development, accountability, etc. even if the civic space remains shrinking or closing.
- ii) Strengthening and optimizing on national, regional and international advocacy platforms and mechanisms which would add impetus to legal and policy reform processes. The common consistent, systematic and strategic advocacy interventions across the region are emphasized.
- iii) Coordinating the community members and making them as part of the reform agenda to amplify voices.
- iv) Continuing enhancing the capacities of the institutions of accountability including the Parliament, the National Audit Office of Tanzania (NAOT); the Prevention and Control of Corruption Bureau (PCCB); the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG); the Judiciary; etc.
- v) Need to conduct a legal assessment of the effectiveness and impact of all relevant laws governing access to information, civic engagement, transparency and accountability. This is intended

to generate knowledge on specific legal issues to focus on in future as a way of enhancing meaningful civic participation.

## 2.2.6 Consideration of Gender, Human Rights and Corruption Factors

Consideration of gendered focus and Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) was mentioned to be prerequisite factors for not only effective civic participation; but also, strategies for achieving broader results of intended interventions e.g. in ITAC 2022's content being sustainable development.



Quite useful and practical experiences on gender, human rights and good governance were shared by the Ambassadors of Norway and Switzerland. The inclusion of women and men in development processes was said to have an impact on increasing the patentability of improved national development. The youth in the conference on the

other hand emphasized on the need for their full participation in the country's development process e.g. in budgeting processes (cycles) so that they can understand issues to engage in accountability. *'It is not easy to hold a leader accountable for a matter in which one was not effectively involved from the beginning ...'*, said one male youth during day two of the conference.

Diminishing of the morale of citizens to participate in their affairs e.g. public meetings and also, the absence of sufficient alternative platforms for citizens to participate in their affairs, were mentioned as issues of concern. Consequently, it was observed that citizen were relying more on media including social media, which as it was said earlier, is perceived to be inadequate.

On the other hand, several challenges associated with the way corruption is handled were discussed including whistleblowing; protection of informants and witnesses; and, the capacities of law enforcers to enforce and monitor law enforcement. For instance, the conference was informed that, according to the 2020's PCCB survey, only 5% of respondents were willing to report corruption incidences. This is attributed to some weaknesses in the system of revealing corruption, which is perceived not to be fully confidential.

Key suggestions on aspects of human rights and anti-corruption measures concerning civic engagement was discussed in the conference and arrived at the following remedies:-

i) Exploring ways of combining human rights with other complementary values such as social justice, religious

values, fairness, transparency, accountability and rule of law - undertaking civic and political education on human rights, HRBA, legal reform to embrace human rights, etc. are some of the feasible strategies.

- ii) A need to explore ways of enabling duty bearers with knowledge and resources to protect and promote peoples' rights. There are some circumstances in which their (duty bearers) capacity gaps limit their responses. Mapping and understanding their attitudes and positions is critical.
- iii) Ensuring that, numerous stakeholders including the citizens understand their civic rights and therefore, they take actions e.g. holding the government accountable constantly.
- iv) Enhancing access to justice for marginalized populations through empowering and supporting legal aid providers operating at the grassroots e.g. paralegals and justice machinery.
- v) Need to have systematic and consistent approaches to pursuing the government to work on public interest issues e.g. through coalition building and publishing online public documents including government audit reports and expenditures.
- vi) Making use of legal avenues to justify interventions e.g. pursuing the presence of transparency and accountability as constitutional right under Articles 8(c); 9(i) and 27(2) of the Constitution of URT of 1977. Note that, civil participation is also a constitutional right in Tanzania under Articles 18; 19; 20 and 24 of the Constitution of URT of 1977.
- vii) Building citizen capacity and strengthening relationships with



the communities to enable anti-corruption messaging to be effectively taken in and acted upon by the communities.

- viii) Inspiring young people in building their obligation to the values of integrity and accountability.
- ix) Pursuing necessary reforms to address all issues pertaining to whistleblowing, protection of informants and witnesses of corruption cases.

### **2.2.7 Sustainable Development and Other Miscellaneous Issues**

In his opening speech, the Chief Guest emphasized that, sustainable development occurs when there are transparent and accountable systems of governance that address people's needs - including of women, youth, PWDs, etc. People are true owners of public resources under Article 8(c) of the Constitution of URT of 1977.

That assentation was affirmed by several participants during the conference; and indeed, it was a settled view by most of them that, sustainable development is an end result that occurs when there is a meaningful participation of the people; and that, when transparent and accountable systems of governance are reinforced by the State in collaboration with all persons concerned - including of women, youth, PWDs, etc.

In this regard, it was recommended that, for the country to attain sustainable development, the following could be considered as mandatory factors: -

- i) Effective involvement of the people. That is, to make the developmental processes people-centered.

- ii) Empowering the citizens to be assertive of their responsibilities e.g. ability to hold their leaders accountable for issues of public interests including management of public resources.
- iii) Invest in constructive interactions between the public sector and non-state actors from CSOs, various associations, trade unions, academia, media and the private sector - as is the case for Norway.
- iv) A need to invest in human resources as natural resources could not necessarily make a country prosperous. That is, to ensure the presence of skills, ability and effective inclusion of both genders in the country's developmental processes.
- v) Considering decentralization process, a preferable approach for supporting meaningful citizen participation from the grassroots to the upper (national) levels.
- vi) Review of the country's education policy to align it with economic development - as a way of ensuring effective youth participation in an economic agenda.
- vii) Linking the civic interventions with ongoing global and national development agenda e.g. SGDs, FYDPIII, etc., there is a need to consider entry points from such an agenda.
- viii) Designing civic engagement strategies in a way that will impact into better services delivery that will benefit

marginalized groups and safeguard the rights of every citizen. This is one of the incentives to encourage citizenry participation in public affairs.

**Other ITAC 2022's miscellaneous suggestions picked in random from the conference deliberations are as follows:-**

- i) Civil Society need to take advantage of existing spaces, if such spaces are closing, then, look for alternatives or create new ones.
- ii) Making use of existing platforms e.g. *mtaa* or village meetings which are statutory and therefore, legally binding to all mature inhabitants of the locality to participate and share views.
- iii) Critically finding out ways of including youth in all these civic space engagement opportunities.
- iv) Need to rely on evidence-based findings e.g. statistics to inform on best or feasible strategies e.g. data on religious believers.
- v) Need to reconsider the country's education system to make it more useful and relevant for the country's development process e.g. considering courses of action that would give us an upper hand.

## **2.3 ITAC 2022's RESOLUTIONS**

Based on the presentations, discussions, dialogues, views and suggestions the participants shared during the conference deliberations, the following were adopted as broad **actionable points** or **resolutions** to be implemented between the ITAC 2022 and the ITAC 2023. These resolutions are formulated such that responsible duty bearers in Tanzania can be able to implement them. Despite the fact that ITAC is an international conference the other countries can also adopt these resolutions and use them to change their situation through similar actors/entities as in Tanzania. WAJIBU's advocacy reach remains in Tanzania because it aims at changing the public financial accountability environment in Tanzania while learning from others across the World.

**Table: ITAC 2022s Resolution:**

<b>S/ No.</b>	<b>Cluster/ Main Issue</b>	<b>Suggestions/ Resolutions</b>	<b>Responsibility/ Actors</b>
1.1	<b>Partnership/ coalition building</b>	Building and maintaining strong and constructive partnerships or synergy between State and Non-state actors for national development – with a view to fostering citizen inclusion especially among marginalized groups. Also, a cross-country learning space (‘cross-breeding’) which ITAC promotes should be sustained.	President’s Office via NASCAP III instrument. WAJIBU -follow up.
1.2		Making effective use of the private sector, the media and the CSO sector as they have proved to be useful in promoting the agenda of public financial accountability in Tanzania e.g. exposing corruption and unethical practices.	TPSF & WAJIBU
2.1	<b>Citizen/ community engagement</b>	Transparency and accountability agenda need to be people’s centered, reinforced on the basis of democratic values and prosperity i.e. owned, managed and driven by the people themselves for their benefit.	WAJIBU & Policy Forum, Foundation for Civil Society
2.2		Reinforcing a focus on meaningful civic participation which is inclusive of all gender groups including women, youths and PWDs. In this regard, intervention strategies should reflect the peculiar needs of each group.	WAJIBU & stakeholders MEDIA, CSOs, HLIs.
2.3		Broadening civic participation by not only involving the citizens, but also, consulting and empowering them to be assertive and champions of their own destinies. Simplified intervention methods should be preferred.	WAJIBU & GOVERNMENT at LGAs level as well.
3.1	<b>The vibrancy of civil society</b>	Needed vibrant civil society sector which is capable of mobilizing communities and pursuing some reforms. A diverse of strategies have to be explored including effective use of digital platforms (dialogues); ensuring effective feedback mechanisms; use of informal civic education; reinforcing a bottom-up approach; etc.	NACONGO & FCS
3.2		Consider other underlying factors to civic engagement including cultural norms or setups which would have some influence on pursuing transparency and accountability agenda e.g. culture of social impunity not to criticize an elder.	PCCB & WAJIBU
3.3		Generate knowledge and reliance on evidence-based findings e.g. statistics to inform on best or feasible strategies reflecting contexts of each country.	ITAC partners

4.1	<b>Policy, legal and institutional reforms</b>	Need conducive policy and legal environments to promote the transparency and accountability agenda e.g. not only the presence of relevant laws such as on access to information, but also ensuring that such laws are effectively enforced and are impactful. Challenges relating to the closing of civic space; inclusion of youth; education system; etc. have to be addressed.	NACONGO, TANGO & FCS
4.2		Need for strong institutions e.g. justice and accountability machinery to in order to enforce leadership and other issues e.g. ethics, efficiency, responsibility, human rights, development, accountability, etc.	Parliament.
4.3		It is strongly recommended for the stakeholders in the civic participation agenda to adopt the modus operandi of the 3 Cs model of implementation which involves (i) collective awareness; (ii) collective accountability/responsibility; and, (iii) collective achievement.	NACONGO
4.4		The need to have an ethical transformation by creating ethical leadership and ethical action on the part of our leaders.	The Ethics & Good Governance Secretariat
5.1	<b>Human rights and corruption</b>	Exploring ways of combining human rights with other complementary values such as social justice, religious values, fairness, transparency, accountability and rule of law - undertaking civic and political education on human rights, HRBA, legal reform to embrace human rights, etc. are some of the feasible strategies.	CSOs, FBOs, CHRAGG, justice machineries, TAESA, MoCLA, LGAs, TLS, WAJIBU, etc.
5.2		Enhancing access to justice for marginalized populations through empowering and supporting legal aid providers operating at the grassroots e.g. paralegals and justice machinery.	
5.3		Increasing citizen's and civil society's awareness, capability and willingness in the fight against corruption - focusing on building an active citizen participation.	

WAJIBU will transcribe these and other specific recommendations mentioned above in a form of a result-based (RBM) plan. Such plan will indicate also the duration, results from the affected areas as well as milestones.

Moreover, a follow-up and feedback mechanism will be devised to map out the status of the implementation of all ITAC 2022 recommendations.

PART THREE

# IMPACT OF ITAC 2022, SOME LESSONS, GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION



### 3.1 EMERGING CHANGES FROM ITAC 2021

Apart from being a cross-country (cross-breeding) learning space which has been offering a platform to learn on public accountability issues, ITAC has contributed quite a lot to an emerging change at the national level. Some of the changes occurring from the past year – since when the ITAC 2021 (with a theme on *transformation to a total culture of transparency and accountability*) was conducted are as follows:-

- i) A practice has been existing and maintained whereby, reports issued by the National Audit Office of Tanzania (NAOT) are scrutinized by the Parliamentary Oversight Committees e.g. PAC and LAAC on behalf of Tanzanians. The committees' recommendations are deliberated in the full house (Parliament) – with a view to increasing accountability.
- ii) The presence of positive reforms of public financial management system e.g. at least 90% of CAG's auditees have been awarded unqualified audit opinions. This is attributed to an improvement in accounting and budgeting systems e.g. *Mfumo wa Ulipaji Serikalini (MUSE)*;<sup>1</sup> the Central Budget Management System (CBMS); and, the LGRCS.
- iii) The government of Tanzania<sup>2</sup> responded to the issues raised by stakeholders about the findings of the 2021 Resource Governance Index (RGI) for Tanzania' in regard to the Mining and Oil and Gas Sector. Afterwards, the need of having a consultative forum organized by NGRI and WAJIBU to discuss further on the 2021 Resource Governance Index

<sup>1</sup> Meaning the Government Digital Payment System – for all government expenditure transactions.

<sup>2</sup> Through Hon. Dr. Dotto Mashaka Biteko (MP), Minister of Minerals.

and its relevance to Tanzania's Extractive sector emerged. Indeed, this was done on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 in Dodoma. Further follow-up on this matter will be made and reported accordingly.

WAJIBU will continue to advocate for the existence and improvement of transparency and accountability e.g. in the country's budgeting system, revenue collection and expenditures management to increase public trust and confidence in the country's public financial management system. That will, in turn, result in a reduction of corruption and reduction in the level of poverty among other changes.

There are some intervention plans to engage with the LGAs for them to be assessed using a broad comprehensive assessment tool being worked out by PO-RALG. The PO-RALG Accountability Index and Guide will assess the competitiveness of the country's LGAs on transparency, accountability and good governance in the provision of good public service to the citizens of this country.

### 3.2 LESSONS LEARNT FROM ITAC 2022

Based on the way the ITAC 2022 conference was organized and conducted, a number of key lessons were learnt as explained below :-

- i) Wide ranging Participants: During the conference, different matters were raised and discussed by participants which needed more clarifications from the responsible ministries and government department in Tanzania. Thus, for effective facilitation of the ITAC, the government officials from PO-RALG and MOFP should be invited as resource persons especially on matters of meaningful civic engagement for sharing experience and provide clarifications on the matters which concerned their

respective institution. This will contribute on enhancing the constructive dialogues between state and non-state actors.

- ii) Self-sponsoring Modality: Making an attendance of the conference being self-sponsoring, enables securing appropriate participants and also creates a sense of self-discipline; and therefore, full responsiveness to the proceedings of the conference. It was observed that, youth aged between 18 to 35 years, had a representation of almost 65% of all participants, this shows the commitment of youth on accountability matters in the country.

### 3.3 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WAJIBU in collaboration with its partners would wish to scale up ITAC to the higher level, picking up from the current level of achievements. From consultations with some of the participants of the ITAC 2022, it is recommended that:-

- i) A need to have some sort of standardized presentations e.g. quality of the contents of conference papers to be presented. That will assure informality of the qualities of all presentations. A focus on presentations should be on practical issues instead of theories, leads the conference to a clear or deeper understanding of issues and therefore, comes out with practical solutions.
- ii) A need to reduce the number of topics to be presented and discussed. A maximum of five topics for two days should be considered.
- iii) A need to address the challenge of the language barrier. Much as the English language could be most suitable for international

conferences like ITAC, a good number of participants from Tanzania do not master the language well. It was observed that, when the Kiswahili language was used by two of the presenters, the plenary session was more alive than in other English-based sessions.

- iv) A need to supply conference materials in accessible formats for all participants some days before the conference date.
- v) A need to involve virtual participants in the plenary discussions e.g. through audio, video or text messages.
- vi) A need to improve media coverage of ITAC. Both local and international as well as mainstream and social media should be engaged and guided to report appropriately and widely.
- vii) A need to include in ITAC a social package e.g. group tourism visits to nearby national parks; having dinner gala; etc.
- viii) A need to have specific and comprehensive follow-up and feedback mechanisms e.g. on the status of implementation of recommendations of previous ITAC deliberations. The use of a result-based action plan with some milestones could be one of the tools in this regard.
- ix) Selection of ITAC Theme: ITAC should pick a theme which reflects contemporary issues happening on the ground across African countries, types the conference proceedings in terms of instigating debates and more importantly achieving at the common solutions which could apply to most of African countries.

### 3.4 CONCLUSION

The ITAC 2022 had three objectives to deliver, namely; to increase participant's understanding of civic participation in the transparency and accountability space to enhance the development process; to discuss on cross-cutting issues for meaningful civic participation in the development process; and, to analyze and identify different approaches used with different actors in creating interest to the citizens to participate fully in accountability and transparency matters.

All these objectives have successfully been realized. The meaning, essence and qualities of civic participation were all clarified during the conference. A linkage with democratic values, human rights, gender, economic development, etc. was explained. Legal, social, policy, institutional, etc. barriers to meaningful civic participation have been explored with some illustrations across the region. Moreover, several approaches have been proposed including having constructive and systematic engagement with the State; Media; and, a bottom-up approach. Etc. were emphasized.

As a way forward then, WAJIBU will prepare a result-based action plan to implement all the resolutions and other recommendations by ITAC 2023. This will be made possible in collaboration with development partners and other stakeholders.







# ITAC 2022

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