

Global resource inequalities as a challenge to SDG implementation



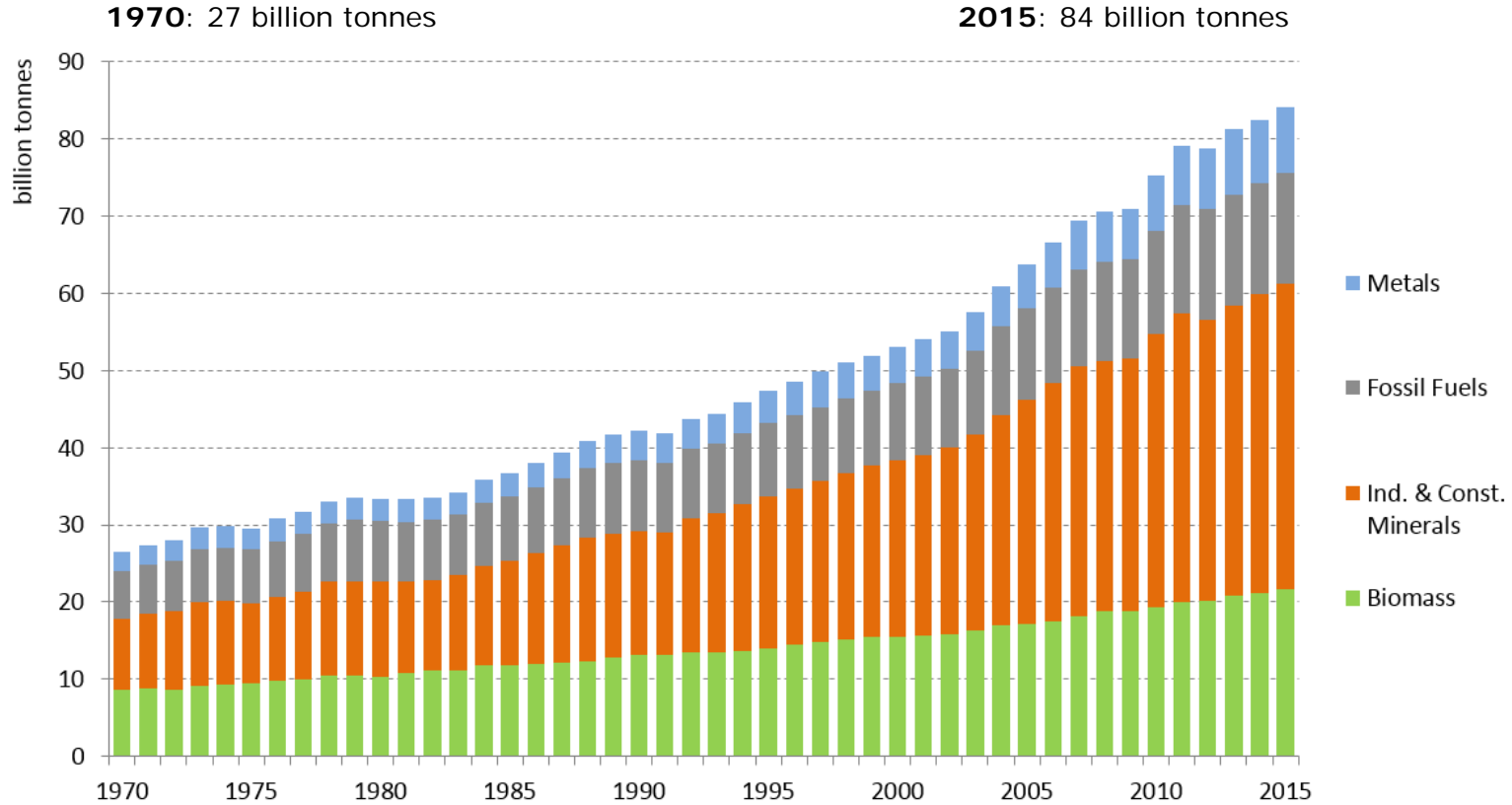
Stefan Giljum

ÖFSE 50th anniversary: „The new multipolar global order and the challenge of the SDGs”

OCTOBER 13, 2017

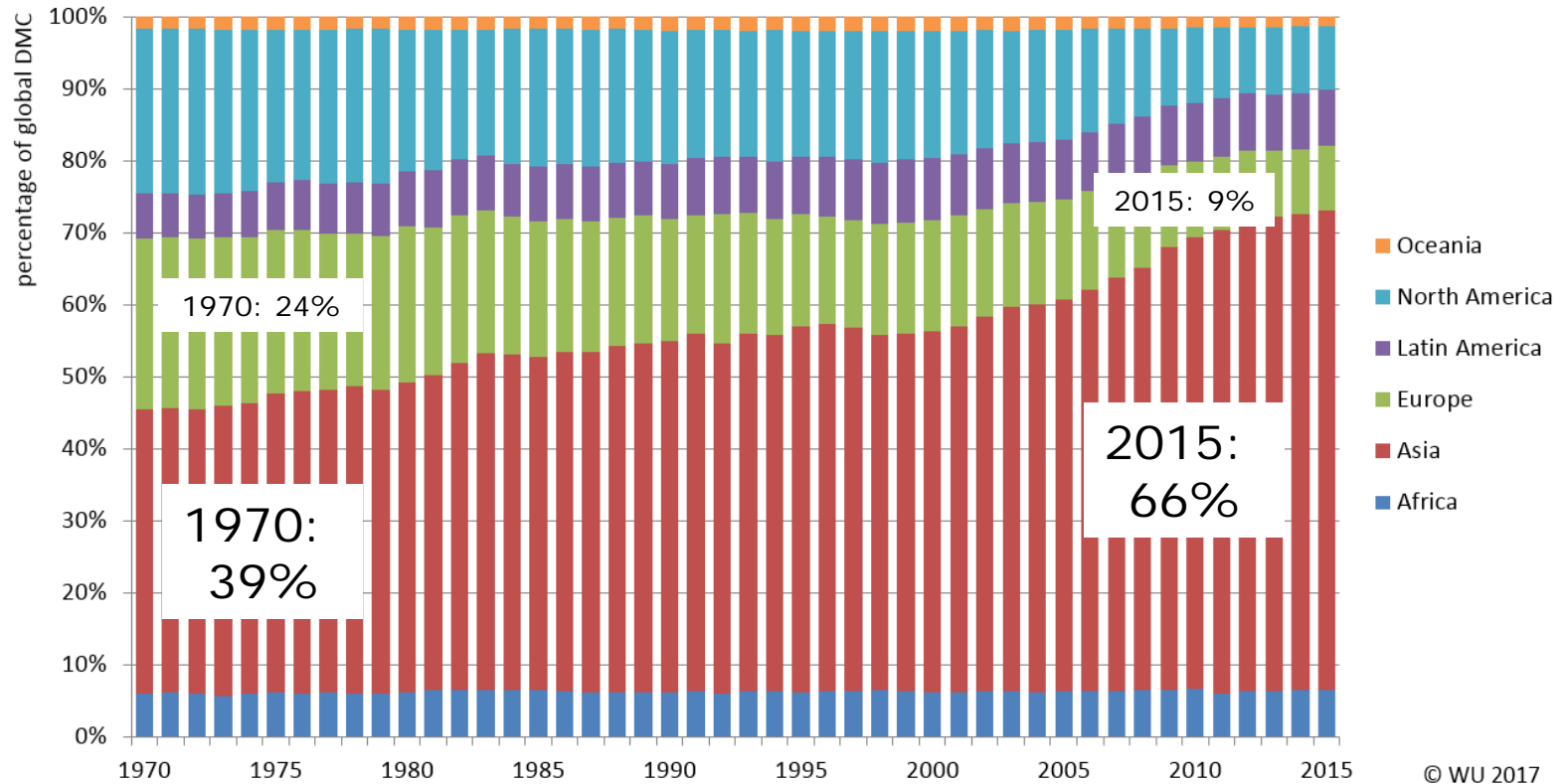


Increasing global material consumption



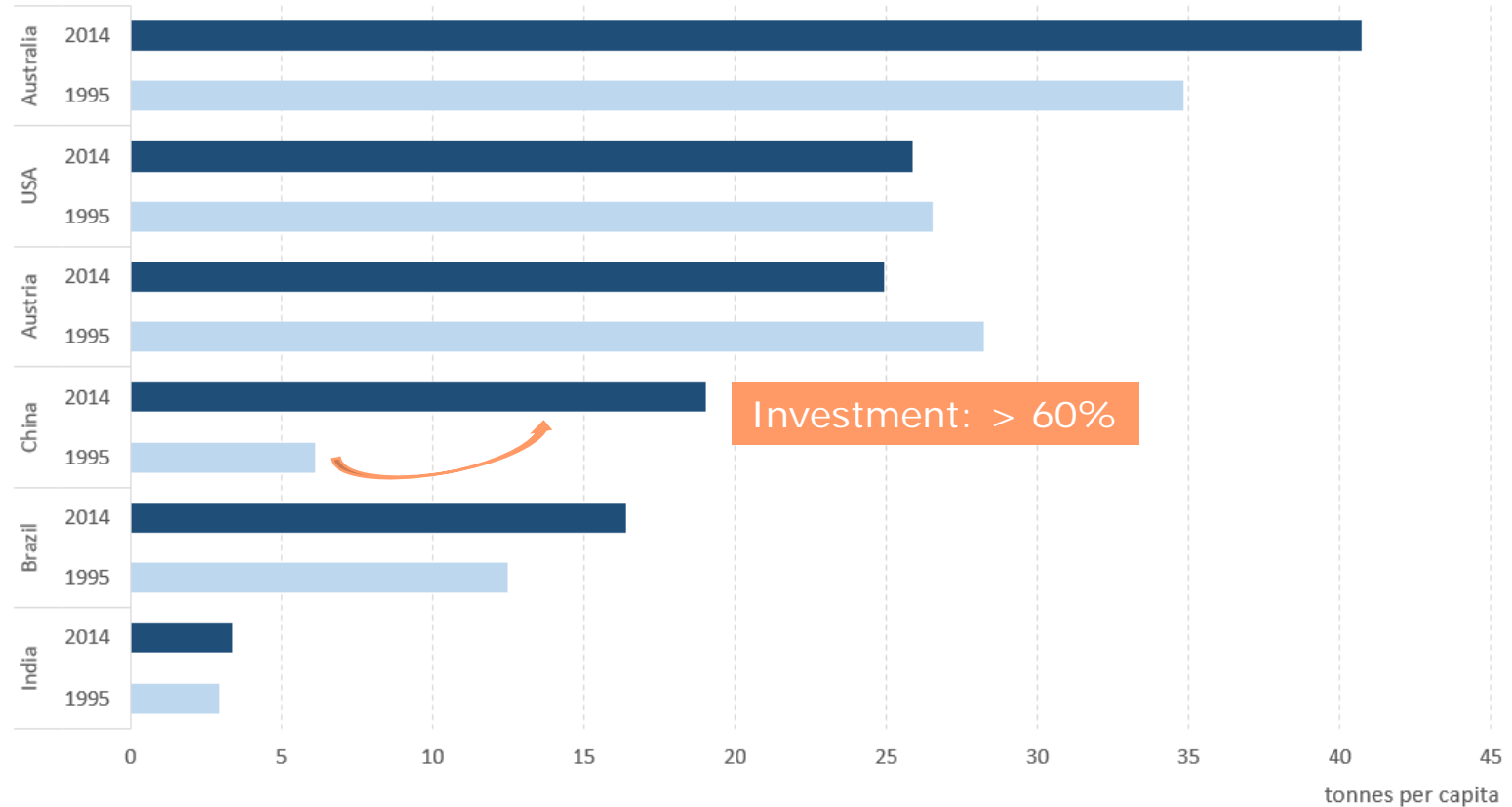
Growing role of Asia

Domestic Material Consumption (DMC)



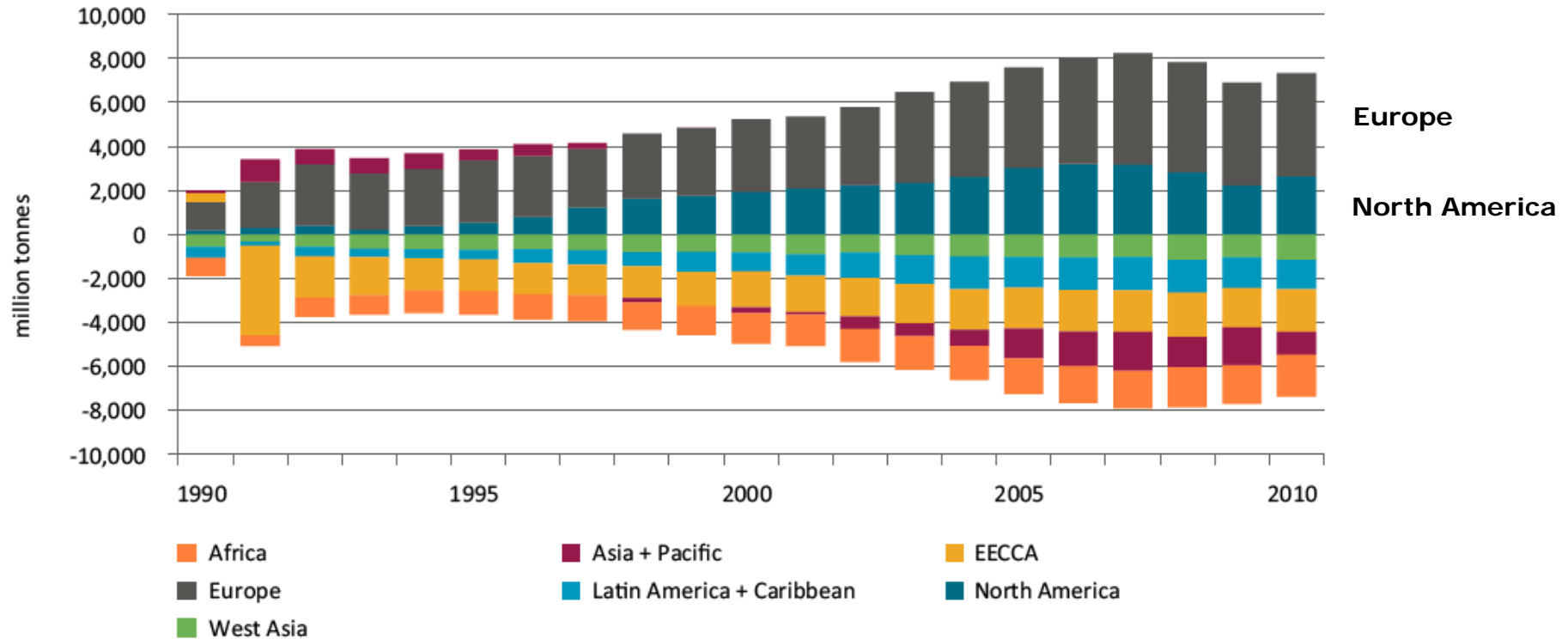
Differences in per-capita consumption

Raw Material Consumption (RMC) / Material footprint



Relocation of pressures through trade ...

Raw material trade balance (RTB) by seven subregions, 1990–2010, million tonnes



... causes environmental and social impacts

Land cover change



Water scarcity



Water pollution



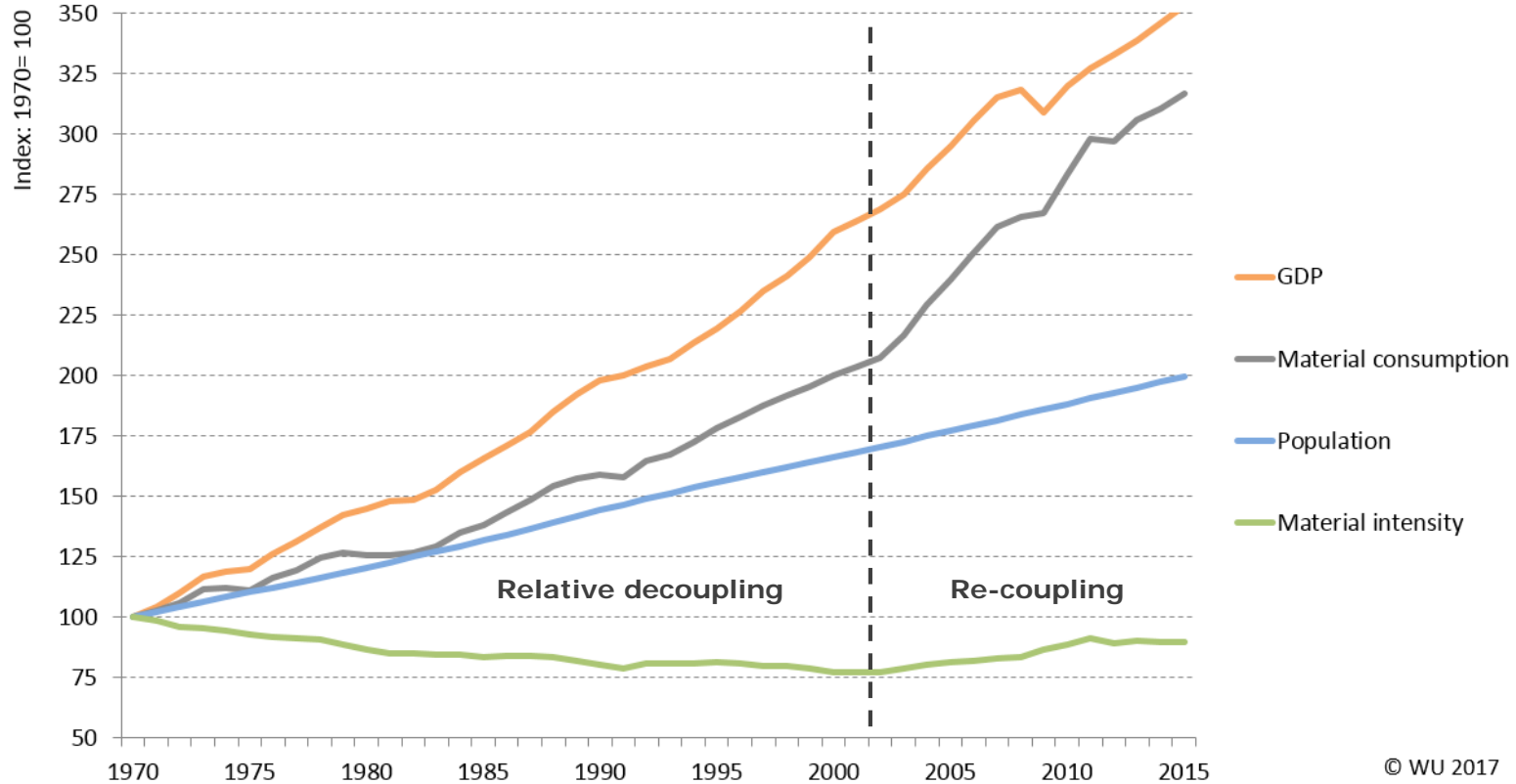
Mining conflicts



Deforestation

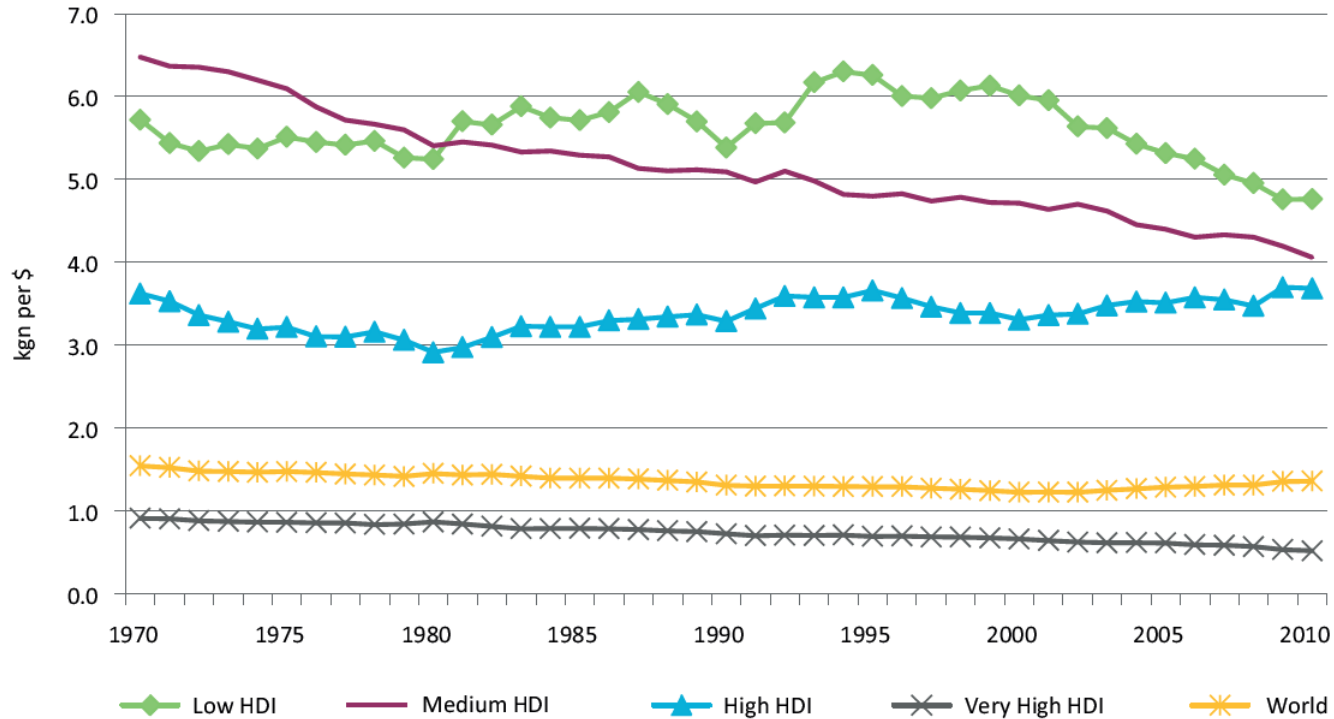


Global 're-coupling'



Potentials for higher resource efficiency

Material intensity (DMC per unit of GDP) by development status, 1970–2010



Conclusions and policy implications

- Common but differentiated responsibilities in reducing the overall level of resource use and decrease resource inequalities
- **Industrialised countries:**
 - Absolute de-coupling → reduction of per-capita consumption levels
 - Policy initiatives (e.g. circular economy) and instruments (e.g. carbon/resource taxes)
 - Responsibility for distant impacts of production and consumption in resource and trade policies

Conclusions and policy implications

- **Emerging economies:**
 - Relative de-coupling
 - Focus on resource-efficient infrastructure (e.g. energy, housing, transport systems)
- **Developing countries:**
 - Material growth required to achieve higher levels of well-being
 - Diversification of economic activities away from raw material extraction and export

Thank you for your attention!



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