



## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### TWENTIETH SESSION

#### IPPC EPHYTO SOLUTION FUNDING MODEL

##### AGENDA ITEM 13.1.3

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)*

##### Introduction

[1] A recent study confirms how the ePhyto digitalization produces savings from 3.7 to 83.5 USD per shipment<sup>1</sup>, which, projected globally, is delivering savings for hundreds of millions, on top of the intangible value offered by the process improvements around the entire chain of trade, from production to phytosanitary certification, to trade documentation, along with improved data harmonization, standardization, transparency, and reduction in fraud, thereby reinforcing the value of ePhyto as a truly multilateral initiative.

[2] This paper seeks CPM-20 approval of the updated expected **annual** contributions for 2027 and 2028, which are required to ensure the continued sustainability of the IPPC ePhyto Solution. At CPM-18 (2024), the Commission endorsed the ePhyto funding model and agreed on the expected annual contributions for the years 2025 and 2026<sup>2</sup>. These contribution levels remain valid and applicable for donor arrangements until the end of 2026, and the IPPC Secretariat expresses its appreciation to all contracting parties that have provided, or intend to provide, contributions in support of the continued maintenance and development of the IPPC ePhyto Solution.

[3] When the model was endorsed at CPM-18 (2024), it was acknowledged that the first two years would serve as an initial implementation phase, after which the funding model would be reviewed to ensure that it continued to meet CPM expectations. At CPM-19 (2025), the Secretariat and the Focus Group on Sustainable Funding were therefore requested to carry out this review<sup>3</sup> and to examine the alternative fee structures presented in the CPM-18 report. The review undertaken in accordance with the guidance provided at CPM-19 (2025) confirmed that the funding model continues to be appropriate for supporting the ongoing operation and development of the IPPC ePhyto Solution<sup>4</sup>.

[4] CPM-20 is now invited to approve the updated expected annual contributions for each of the years 2027 and 2028, to ensure the continued operation and long-term sustainability of the IPPC ePhyto Solution.

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<sup>1</sup> Investing in trade digitalization: the case of ePhyto. Prykhodko D., Ott A.C., Koroleva E. (2025). Directions in Investment, No. 13. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Available at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/792da9f5-8b2e-4125-88a5-cef545f3bf47/content>

<sup>2</sup> CPM-18 Approved funding model:

[https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2024/03/15\\_CPM\\_2024\\_Rev1\\_Proposed\\_ePhyto\\_Funding\\_Model\\_2024-03-08\\_if9QI1G.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2024/03/15_CPM_2024_Rev1_Proposed_ePhyto_Funding_Model_2024-03-08_if9QI1G.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> CPM 2025/21\_Funding of the IPPC ePhyto solution: [link](#)

<sup>4</sup> CPM-19 (2025), agenda item 12.1, paragraph 82 (74-78).

## Update on the financial situation

[5] The current funding model, as endorsed by CPM-18, reviewed and confirmed by CPM-19, includes a base fee for participation in the ePhyto Solution<sup>5</sup>, which increases according to the World Bank's Gross National Income (GNI) per capita classification. Under this structure, World Bank low-income countries and UN Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are exempt from the base fee, while World Bank lower-middle income countries are exempt when they fall within the low-usage category. The model also includes a usage fee based on four usage categories (low, medium, high and very high), calculated using the total number of certificates sent via the ePhyto HUB and counting both sending and receiving exchanges, as both parties benefit from the transaction. Contracting parties in the low-usage category (<5,000 exchanges) do not pay a usage fee.

**Table 1.** Summary of the main criteria for fees calculation of the current funding model for the IPPC ePhyto Solution.

<b>Current Fees Calculation Criteria</b>
Contracting parties classified as Low (WB)/LDC pay no base fee and no usage fee. Contracting parties that are low users and are LM development status pay no base fee
Base fee starts at <b>\$4,000</b> and then doubles for each higher development status level.
Four usage categories with the usage fee starting at nil for low usage (<5,000 exchanges), then <b>\$6,900</b> for medium, and then doubles for each higher usage level.

[6] As of November 2025, approximately 22 out of the 72<sup>6</sup> contracting parties encouraged at CPM-18 have contributed in 2025, reaching only approximately 50% of the indicative overall target of USD 1,263,000. As of today, thanks to advanced and extra contributions and small savings from previous years, the ePhyto MDTF has approximately USD 1.3 million. These resources are sufficient to cover maintenance costs (710,000 USD per year) only for 2 years (see Appendix 2 ePhyto MDTF Budget Structure). In this context, the available resources ensure minimal continuity of essential functions, while leaving a limited margin to absorb additional requirements or unforeseen needs.

[7] In view of the above and considering the results (50% of the target) of the first year of the funding model implementation, the annual expected contributions for 2027 and 2028 will be calculated based on the latest usage data<sup>7</sup>, reflecting the increased use of the ePhyto Solution, without changing the fees.

[8] The table 2 below presents the funding model fees, which **remain unchanged** from the model approved under CPM-18 (2024) and CPM-19 (2025), and shows how contributions are determined based on usage levels and development status through a combination of base and usage fees.

<sup>5</sup> The base fee is not related to the number or type of connection, the use of the HUB and/or the use of the GeNS

<sup>6</sup> Although the funding model considered a total of 88 countries only 72 were qualified for an expected contribution

<sup>7</sup> IPPC ePhyto HUB statistics, counting unique certificates successfully exchanged (sent and received) between December 2024 and November 2025

**Table 2.** funding model fees proposed for 2027-2028 on the same model as for 2025-2026.

			Funding Model Fees				
			DEVELOPMENT STATUS				
USAGE	LOW	Base Fee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000	
	< 5000	Usage Fee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
		<b>Total</b>	\$ -	\$ -	<b>\$ 8,000</b>	<b>\$ 16,000</b>	
	MEDIUM	Base Fee	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000	
	5,000 - 49,999	Usage Fee	\$ -	\$ 6,900	\$ 6,900	\$ 6,900	
		<b>Total</b>	\$ -	<b>\$ 10,900</b>	<b>\$ 14,900</b>	<b>\$ 22,900</b>	
	HIGH	Base Fee	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000	
	50,000 - 149,999	Usage Fee	\$ -	\$ 13,800	\$ 13,800	\$ 13,800	
		<b>Total</b>	\$ -	<b>\$ 17,800</b>	<b>\$ 21,800</b>	<b>\$ 29,800</b>	
	VERY HIGH	Base Fee	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000	
	150,000+	Usage Fee	\$ -	\$ 27,600	\$ 27,600	\$ 27,600	
		<b>Total</b>	\$ -	<b>\$ 31,600</b>	<b>\$ 35,600</b>	<b>\$ 43,600</b>	

[9] The individual recalculated figures derived from the updated usage data are reported in Appendix 1.

[10] As part of the review conducted with updated usage data, it was noted that several contracting parties are now exchanging substantially higher volumes of certificates compared to the period in which the funding model was originally approved under CPM-18 in 2024. These changes in usage patterns reflect the increased adoption of the IPPC ePhyto Solution and therefore provide a more accurate picture of the current level of engagement with the system. In addition to the higher exchange volumes, the updated data also show that an increasing number of contracting parties have begun using the ePhyto Solution since the model was first endorsed, further expanding the overall user base. A reduction in fees would be advisable only once the level of contributions permits such a reduction without compromising the ability to adequately reserve funds for maintenance costs.

[11] To ensure proper maintenance, development and support, it is essential that the sustainability of the ePhyto Solution is maintained and contributions are collected regularly. Stable funding would allow the secretariat to respond effectively when needed. To achieve this objective, the IPPC Secretariat needs to secure more sustainable funding with the following key activities:

- Ensure transparency on service delivery, results, and associated costs by clearly outlining how resources are used and how outcomes are achieved and communicated.
- Guide countries on their expected annual contributions and payment modalities, and update the yearly rate regularly to reflect changes in the number of countries onboarded and actively using the system.
- Strengthen the funding model through a targeted communication and advocacy approach that promotes the benefits of ePhyto and mobilizes support from regional representatives and ESG members for the required contributions.

## Participation and Contribution Considerations for the IPPC ePhyto Solution

- [12] When contracting parties start using the IPPC ePhyto Solution in production mode, they will be expected to start contributing. In their first calendar year of exchanging ePhytos via the IPPC ePhyto Solution, contracting parties will be expected to contribute following the criteria of the funding model described above.
- [13] If contracting parties do not contribute, it will create a shortfall in funds and will mean less money is available to support the maintenance and development of the solution, and less onboarding implementation support will be available to contracting parties as they start to use the system. The shortfall would have to be filled by additional voluntary contributions from other contracting parties.
- [14] Once contracting parties start using the IPPC ePhyto Solution for a large proportion of their phytosanitary certification, the cost is relatively small, and the benefits are significantly higher than a paper-based certificate exchange. For many contracting parties, their expected contribution to the ePhyto Solution will be much less than their current paper phytosanitary certificate system. In addition, there are many operational efficiencies and a greater level of trust in the assurances the NPPO is receiving through the ePhyto Solution Hub. Moreover, as more contracting parties join and actively use the ePhyto Solution, the overall benefits increase for all users, including greater interoperability, improved data reliability, and the potential to distribute operational costs more broadly, thereby reducing the contribution levels for all participants over time. Although the funding model is not legally binding, it is expected that contracting parties will recognize the value of the IPPC ePhyto Solution and contribute their fair share.
- [15] At each session of the CPM, a report will be tabled providing an overall status of expected and actual contributions by each contracting party for the past, current, and forthcoming year, including an indication of contributions received.

## Recommendations

- [16] The CPM is *invited* to:
  - (1) *thank* the contracting parties that contributed to the IPPC ePhyto Solution in 2025: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, European Union,<sup>8</sup> France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America;<sup>9</sup> and
  - (2) *agree* on the updated expected annual contributions for 2027 and 2028 provided in Appendix 1, as proposed in this paper, which are required to ensure the continued sustainability of the IPPC ePhyto Solution.

<sup>8</sup> The European Commission, on behalf of the European Union, is co-financing base fees of contributions from EU countries.

<sup>9</sup> If your country has already contributed but is not mentioned, please contact the IPPC Secretariat (IPPC-Secretary@fao.org) to verify and update the records accordingly.

## Appendix 1: Expected annual contribution for 2027 by contracting party

[17] Please note that, in the table, Low-Income countries also correspond to United Nations Least Developed Countries (UN LDCs).

[18] The expected fees are annual and are applicable for the years 2027 and 2028.

[19] Countries that have been newly added highlighted.

[20] Values that differ from the 2024-2025 calculation are highlighted.

[21] The first contributions from contracting parties using the IPPC ePhyto Solution would be expected for the 2027 calendar year. The following timeline would be followed:

- The Secretariat would inform the IPPC contracting party contact points before 1 July 2026 of their expected contribution for the 2027 and 2028 calendar years<sup>10</sup>. This gives contracting parties time to include the contribution in their budgeting process for 2027.

Contracting Party	Development Status	Exchanges	Usage Category	Base Fee (USD)	Usage Fee (USD)	Expected Annual Contribution (USD) <sup>11</sup>
Albania	Upper middle income	1976	LOW	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
Angola	Low income	2	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Argentina	Upper middle income	110792	HIGH	\$ 8,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 21,800
Australia	High income	27207	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Austria	High income	4663	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Azerbaijan	Upper middle income	6123	MEDIUM	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,900
Bahamas (the)	High income	4669	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Belgium	High income	49499	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Lower middle income	7475	MEDIUM	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 10,900
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Upper middle income	4477	LOW	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
Brazil	Upper middle income	73148	HIGH	\$ 8,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 21,800
Bulgaria	High income	7513	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Burkina Faso	Low income	27	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cameroon	Lower middle income	4620	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Canada	High income	2995	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Cayman Islands (the)	High income	2122	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Chile	High income	137667	HIGH	\$ 16,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 29,800
Colombia	Upper middle income	33340	MEDIUM	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,900
Cook Islands (the)	Lower middle income	663	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

<sup>10</sup> The contributions are expected to be paid once per year

<sup>11</sup> The contribution is annual, with one contribution due for 2027 and one for 2028. The calculation is based on the system usage data extracted for the period December 2024 to November 2025, which determines both the usage category and the corresponding expected contribution.

Contracting Party	Development Status	Exchanges	Usage Category	Base Fee (USD)	Usage Fee (USD)	Expected Annual Contribution (USD) <sup>11</sup>
Costa Rica	High income	106413	HIGH	\$ 16,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 29,800
Côte d'Ivoire	Lower middle income	29290	MEDIUM	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 10,900
Croatia	High income	6966	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Cyprus	High income	4570	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Czechia	High income	6364	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Denmark	High income	12700	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Dominica	Upper middle income	360	LOW	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
Dominican Republic (the)	Upper middle income	43278	MEDIUM	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,900
Ecuador	Upper middle income	109074	HIGH	\$ 8,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 21,800
El Salvador	Upper middle income	436	LOW	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
Estonia	High income	3844	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Fiji	Upper middle income	9991	MEDIUM	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,900
Finland	High income	4037	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
France	High income	114462	HIGH	\$ 16,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 29,800
French Polynesia	High income	2099	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Germany	High income	100543	HIGH	\$ 16,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 29,800
Ghana	Lower middle income	3240	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Greece	High income	13931	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Guatemala	Upper middle income	43896	MEDIUM	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,900
Guyana	High income	3815	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Hong Kong	High income	6026	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Hungary	High income	6674	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
India	Lower middle income	175771	VERY HIGH	\$ 4,000	\$ 27,600	\$ 31,600
Indonesia	Upper middle income	37487	MEDIUM	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,900
Ireland	High income	14320	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Israel	High income	27905	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Italy	High income	80678	HIGH	\$ 16,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 29,800
Jamaica	Upper middle income	4054	LOW	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
Japan	High income	9465	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Jordan	Lower middle income	11224	MEDIUM	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 10,900
Kazakhstan	Upper middle income	50510	HIGH	\$ 8,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 21,800
Kenya	Lower middle income	228423	VERY HIGH	\$ 4,000	\$ 27,600	\$ 31,600
Kiribati	Low income	332	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Korea (the Republic of)	High income	100011	HIGH	\$ 16,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 29,800
Latvia	High income	4292	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Lithuania	High income	7547	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Luxembourg	High income	572	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000

Contracting Party	Development Status	Exchanges	Usage Category	Base Fee (USD)	Usage Fee (USD)	Expected Annual Contribution (USD) <sup>11</sup>
Madagascar	Low income	8845	MEDIUM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Malaysia	Upper middle income	25502	MEDIUM	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,900
Malta	High income	596	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Marshall Islands (the)	Upper middle income	126	LOW	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
Mexico	Upper middle income	229086	VERY HIGH	\$ 8,000	\$ 27,600	\$ 35,600
Moldova (the Republic of)	Upper middle income	1	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Morocco	Lower middle income	137799	HIGH	\$ 4,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 17,800
Nepal	Low income	0	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Netherlands (the)	High income	485629	VERY HIGH	\$ 16,000	\$ 27,600	\$ 43,600
New Zealand	High income	39453	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Nigeria	Lower middle income	7500	MEDIUM	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 10,900
Niue	Lower middle income	81	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Norway	High income	37791	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Pakistan	Lower middle income	38958	MEDIUM	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 10,900
Panama	High income	28140	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Papua New Guinea	Lower middle income	95	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Paraguay	Upper middle income	15153	MEDIUM	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,900
Peru	Upper middle income	156144	VERY HIGH	\$ 8,000	\$ 27,600	\$ 35,600
Philippines (the)	Lower middle income	6745	MEDIUM	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 10,900
Poland	High income	23814	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Portugal	High income	23600	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Republic of North Macedonia	Upper middle income	9674	MEDIUM	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,900
Romania	High income	18869	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Saint Lucia	Upper middle income	898	LOW	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
Samoa	Upper middle income	10723	MEDIUM	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,900
Senegal	Low income	10671	MEDIUM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Slovakia	High income	2121	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Slovenia	High income	3091	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Solomon Islands	Low income	1782	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
South Africa	Upper middle income	117334	HIGH	\$ 8,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 21,800
Spain	High income	134193	HIGH	\$ 16,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 29,800
Sri Lanka	Lower middle income	55629	HIGH	\$ 4,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 17,800
Sweden	High income	11893	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Switzerland	High income	20187	MEDIUM	\$ 16,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 22,900
Tanzania, United Republic of	Low income	65	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Contracting Party	Development Status	Exchanges	Usage Category	Base Fee (USD)	Usage Fee (USD)	Expected Annual Contribution (USD) <sup>11</sup>
Thailand	Upper middle income	20875	MEDIUM	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 14,900
Togo	Low income	5661	MEDIUM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tonga	Upper middle income	433	LOW	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
Trinidad and Tobago	High income	3411	LOW	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
Tunisia	Lower middle income	6469	MEDIUM	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,900	\$ 10,900
Tuvalu	Low income	37	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Uganda	Low income	30553	MEDIUM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ukraine	Upper middle income	121826	HIGH	\$ 8,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 21,800
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)	High income	124018	HIGH	\$ 16,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 29,800
United States of America (the)	High income	799662	VERY HIGH	\$ 16,000	\$ 27,600	\$ 43,600
Uzbekistan	Lower middle income	65874	HIGH	\$ 4,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 17,800
Zambia	Low income	3	LOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

## Appendix 2 ePhyto MDTF Budget Structure

The following is the budget structure for the ePhyto MDTF, composed of:

- Maintenance Costs
  - The technical services delivery of the solution IT Components by the technical provider (UNICC), including standard maintenance such as availability and monitoring of the systems, security, technical support as required, and within the allocated budget capacity
  - The ePhyto Program management and support, including the management of the technical provider, reporting, centralized support, governance, change management, budget management, project management, international collaboration, implementation activities, and country onboarding.
- Development Costs
  - Resources for the advanced roll-out of the solution in countries and regions, including training, workshops, specialized support, guidelines, adoption assessment, troubleshooting, and interoperability architecture design
  - Technical enhancements and modernizations, as identified and approved following the change management process, to support further expansion and scaling of the solution

Type of Cost	Average Annual cost (USD, per year)
<b>IPPC ePhyto Solution Maintenance</b>	
UNICC Operations – Technical Service Delivery HUB – 180,000 USD GeNS – 283,000 USD	463,000
<b>ePhyto Program Management and Support (IPPC)</b>	250,000
<b>Total Maintenance costs</b>	<b>713,000</b>
<b>IPPC ePhyto Solution Development</b>	
Advanced Implementation Monitoring & Support	250,000
Solution enhancements & modernizations	300,000
<b>Total Development costs</b>	<b>550,000</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>1,263,000</b>

Contributions exceeding the minimum funding target will be allocated according to the following priorities:

- **Establishment of maintenance reserves** to ensure sustainability over subsequent years, with a target of maintaining reserves equivalent to at least three years of operations; and
- **Implementation and development enhancements**, in line with priorities defined by the ePhyto governance framework.

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