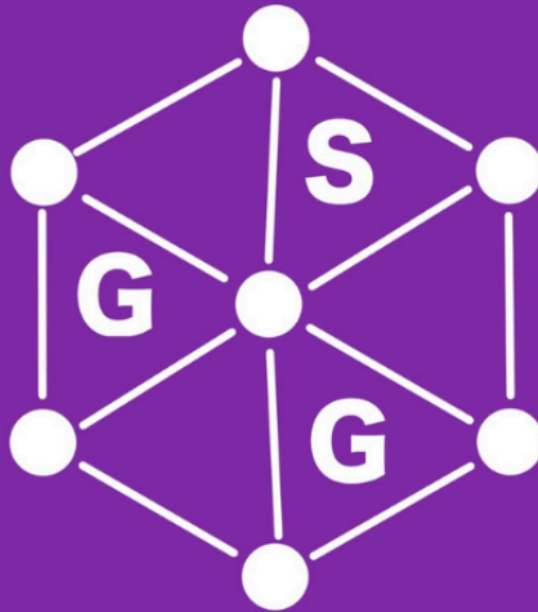


Global Student Government

2nd Legislative Assembly

Meeting Package



April 25-29, 2023

Toronto, Canada

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Welcome Message

Dear Members of the Global Student Government (GSG) (including IFISO members) and honoured guests,

We are pleased to formally invite you to the 2nd GSG Legislative Assembly, which will be combined with the 2023 Spring Meeting of the Informal Forum of International Student Organisations (IFISO). This combined event will take place in-person from April 25-29, 2023 at the University of Toronto in Canada, with virtual participation options available for those who are unable to travel to the event location.

At this 2nd GSG Legislative Assembly, we will debate and vote on a number of motions that have the potential to shape the future of the GSG. These votes will take place on April 28th. We will also be appointing five individuals to the GSG Advisory Board, which is the GSG's appeal body that makes rulings on interpreting the GSG Constitution. Details about Advisory Board responsibilities can be found in Article 9 of the [GSG Constitution](#). The motions, itinerary, agenda, and other helpful information about the Legislative Assembly can be accessed in the sections below. Please read through these documents in advance of the meeting.

Delegates from your organization who plan on attending must fill out the Registration Form [linked here](#) by 9:00 EST, Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

If you would like to add motions to the agenda, please send them to GSG Secretary General Zlatan Vasović at secgen@globalstudentgovernment.org by 9:00 EST, Tuesday, April 18, 2023. If you would like to nominate individuals to the GSG Advisory Board, please send their name, CV, and brief cover letter or statement of motivation to Zlatan by the above date and time.

Delegations from organizations that are not yet part of the GSG are welcome to attend as observers by registering via the form linked above.

I am also pleased to announce that for all organizations using the **opt-in GSG membership type**, the link for your students to opt-in is now available on the GSG website and can be accessed here: <https://globalstudentgovernment.org/individual-membership>. Please share this link with your students so they can sign up to access GSG opportunities and actualize their voting rights in GSG elections. For each of your students that signs up, your organization receives 50% of the membership fee revenue.

On behalf of the GSG team, we look forward to seeing you at this landmark event in our effort to rebuild student democracy around the world. If you have any questions or if there is anything you need, you are welcome to contact us anytime.

Best,

Justin Patrick,
GSG President

Zlatan Vasović,
GSG Secretary General

Kristina Almazidou,
GSG Vice-President
External

Oleksii Zahreba,
GSG Vice-President
Operations

January 17, 2023

Registration

Please register via [this online form](#) by 9:00 EST, Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

Itinerary

The itinerary will be updated as sessions are confirmed. Registrants will be informed of major itinerary updates.

Legend

	Social Event
	Discussions
	Presentations
	Workshops
	Voting Session

Time (Eastern Standard Time)	Tuesday, April 25	Wednesday, April 26 252 Bloor Street West, Floor 2, Room 2212	Thursday, April 27 252 Bloor Street West, Floor 2, Room 2212	Friday, April 28th 252 Bloor Street West, Floor 2, Room 2212	Saturday, April 29
9:00- 10:00	Participants arrive, check in and receive conference packages 252 Bloor Street West Floor 6	Opening Ceremony	Presentation: Voting Info Session	2nd GSG Legislative Assembly	Light Networking and Participant Departures 252 Bloor Street West Floor 6
10:00- 11:00		Presentation: Student Government in Canada	IFISO Voting Session		
11:00- 12:00		Discussion: Advocacy and Action			
12:00- 13:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

13:00-14:00	Participants arrive, check in and receive conference packages 252 Bloor Street West Floor 6	Discussion: Student Engagement and Outreach	Sahrawi Students' Union Presentation	2nd GSG Legislative Assembly	
14:00-15:00		Discussion: Climate Justice	Discussion: Human Rights		
15:00-16:00		Discussion: Student Government Finance	Discussion: Education Funding	Workshop: Reflecting on Ideas from Discussions	
16:00-17:00		Wellness Workshop	Discussion: Internal Governance in Student Organizations	Presentation: Efreem Berhe, founder of the Canadian Youth Opportunities Program (CAYOP)	
17:00-18:00	Evening Social 252 Bloor Street West, Floor 6	Evening Social	Evening Social	Evening Social	
18:00-19:00		Assorted nearby restaurants	Assorted nearby restaurants		
19:00-20:00					
20:00-21:00					
21:00-22:00					

Sponsors

The GSG would like to thank and showcase the following organizations that have provided sponsorships to improve the student experience at the 2nd Legislative Assembly.

Duke of York Pub

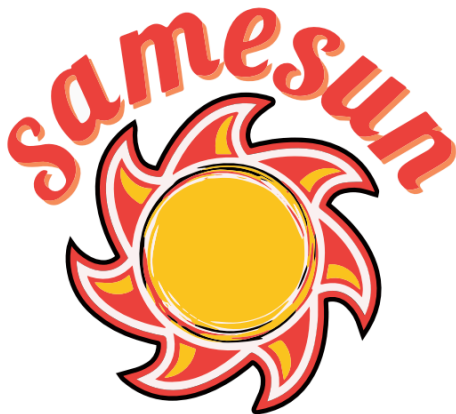
<https://dukepubs.ca/duke-of-york>



A 2-minute walk from the event location, the Duke of York offers a variety of food and beverage options. In-person participants will receive coupons for \$5 off food items.

Samesun Toronto

<https://samesun.com/toronto-hostel>



Samesun Toronto sits nestled in the downtown area, in Kensington Market, one of Toronto's most eclectic and vibrant neighbourhoods. This inclusive hostel is only a 6-minute drive or 11-minute walk from the University of Toronto, making it the perfect base for attendees of the GSG Legislative Assembly.

[Book your accommodations through this link](#) and use the promo code GSG2023 for 15% off for bookings less than 4 days, 25% off for bookings of 4 days or more (estimated \$300.10 CAD and up total to stay from April 25-29 with the discount). Includes free breakfast, towels, and wifi.

Legislative Assembly Agenda

*Room 2212, 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Canada, Friday, April 28, 2023, 9:00 EST.
Durations are estimated and may vary depending on what is decided by the Legislative Assembly. Online participation will be available to participants who are unable to attend in-person.*

1. Land Acknowledgement - 5 minutes

[Click here](#) for more information.

2. Welcome and Introduction - 20 minutes

3. Vote to Approve the Minutes of the November 2022 Legislative Assembly - 10 minutes

The minutes are provided below.

4. Vote to Approve the Report of the GSG President - 30 minutes

5. Vote to Approve the Financial Report - 30 minutes

The financial report is provided below.

6. Motions Part 1 - 60 minutes

See the section “Motions Package” below for details.

7. Lunch - 60 minutes

8. Motions Part 2 - 60 minutes

See the section “Motions Package” below for details.

9. Appointment of Advisory Board Members - 30 minutes

10. Adjournment

Legislative Assembly Tips

Here are some tips about the procedures of the GSG Legislative Assembly. There are some important rules that need to be followed, as well as some things to keep in mind before and during the meeting:

- The Legislative Assembly operates according to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*. This is a set of rules for facilitating meetings to help ensure that they are run fairly and efficiently. A basic overview can be found [here](#) and a more detailed overview can be found [here](#). It is important that your delegates understand how the procedure works before the meeting.
- If you would like to submit a motion to add to the agenda, you must submit it to secgen@globalstudentgovernment.org by 8:00 EST, November 19, 2022. This will allow time for other members to read the motions.
- The Global Student Government Constitution and other official documents can be found [here](#). Votes to amend the Constitution require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. Votes to approve policies or other actions the GSG should take require a simple majority vote.
- In the motions package, you will see some text that has unusual formatting. Here is what this means:
 - Red text indicates text that the motion wants to add.
 - ~~Red strikethrough text~~ indicates text that the motion wants to remove.

Advisory Board Appointments

After the motions, the Legislative Assembly will appoint three individuals to serve on the GSG Advisory Board, which is the GSG highest appeal body that makes rulings regarding the interpretation of the GSG Constitution. Your organization can nominate individuals for the Advisory Board by sending their name, email, and ideally a copy of their CV or link to their LinkedIn profile, plus a brief cover letter to secgen@globalstudentgovernment.org by 8:00 EST, November 19, 2022.

Motions Package

Motions will appear here as they are received by the GSG Secretary General.

Minutes from 1st Legislative Assembly

[Click here to view the minutes.](#)

2022-2023 Financial Report

The first year of the GSG involved a small budget. While this managed to keep the GSG financially stable, it had little funds to spare. Some main points to summarize are as follows.

- Member organizations besides the International Association for Political Science Students need to pay membership fees
- The GSG survived largely due to in-kind contributions

Revenue and Expenditures

Type	Item	Amount (CAD)
Revenue	Membership fees paid by the International Association for Political Science Students	803
	Individual Memberships through the opt-in model (1 in total)	4.52
Total Revenue		807.52
Expenses	Bank account fees	50
	Website costs	441
	Online meeting software for first Legislative Assembly	139.20
Total Expenses		630.20
Total Surplus		177.32
Estimated In-kind Contributions	Website hosting (paid by the International Association for Political Science Students)	546
	Post-office box (Provided by Concordia University and shared with the International Association for Political Science Students)	390 ¹

¹ Based on an estimated cost of \$30/month for 13 months

	Zoom account for 2nd Legislative Assembly (used Justin Patrick's personal Zoom account)	16.67
	Honoraria for GSG team members (not Executive Committee members) through the Riipen program (\$1400 each)	5600
	Food discount coupons for 2nd Legislative Assembly (provided by Duke of York pub in Toronto, Canada; 100 coupons of \$5 off food)	500
	Google for Nonprofits (G-Suite services that the GSG would have otherwise had to pay for if it was not a non-profit)	132.60
	Lapel pins (100 donated by Justin Patrick)	166.26
	Room booking for 2nd Legislative Assembly (provided by Justin Patrick)	459.91
	Food for the 2nd Legislative Assembly donated by the Leadership, Higher and Adult Education Student Association of the University of Toronto	56.58
Total Estimated In-kind Contributions		7868.02

GSG Introductory Report

What is the GSG?

The Global Student Government (GSG) is a student democracy representing students at international levels. It was founded in April 2022 after two years of work by a coalition of student governments concerned about declining student representation around the world. Representing an estimated 10 million students across all inhabited continents, the GSG seeks to strengthen,

build and/or rebuild student democracy, coordinate advocacy campaigns across borders, and help student governments build their organizational and service capacities. More specifically, the GSG's goals are to:

1. Advocate for students' interests in policy making processes at all levels of government;
2. Ensure quality democratic student representation exists at all continental, national, regional, and campus levels;
3. Establishing and maintaining lines of communication between student governments around the world;
4. Foster continuous improvement of student services, student government capacity building, extracurricular activities, and all aspects of the student experience;
5. Ensure the preservation, access, transfer, and continuous expansion of knowledge pertaining to student government and all aspects of the student experience.

In addition, GSG has been recently expanding its membership outreach from subject-based student governments to student union types. Student democracies of all types are welcome to join the GSG.

Why is the GSG necessary for the student voice?

The GSG's founding student governments joined together to resist substantial threats to student democracy in the twenty-first century that have started a trend of student government decline and collapse. Some student governments that have collapsed are:

- International Union of Students 1946-2000s
- United States Student Association 1947-2018
- Assorted Hong Kong student unions 2010s-2020s
- International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations 1969-2010s
- Assorted student unions in Asia and the Middle East

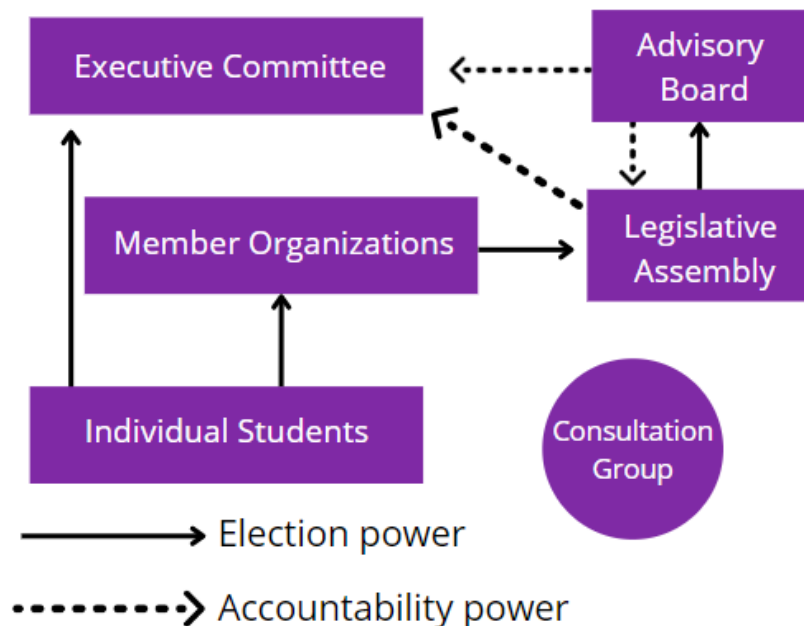
Furthermore, governments have implemented voluntary student unionism in Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, parts of the US, and attempted to do so in the Canadian province of Ontario, which forces student government membership to be voluntary instead of automatic, drastically reducing student government revenue and bringing the legitimacy of student representation into question. At the same time, a number of policymakers have been circumventing consultations with elected students in favour of small appointed student or youth councils that they hand-pick themselves, risking a cycle of biased advice and patronage that directly threatens student democracy. We believe these recent trends are part of a larger decline of civil society organizations generally. The result is that students in some continents are shut out of student advocacy at international and national levels while those that remain represent the world's wealthiest student populations.

The GSG is also important for being a positive influence on member student governments regarding how to best structure student democracy and implement organizational operations. For instance, the GSG can work with student governments to help them build their technological and digital infrastructure and mitigate risks of student government corruption and

over-corporatization of student government structures, issues which are both prevalent in some student governments that have managed to survive thus far in the twenty-first century.

Structure

The GSG's structure consists of a Legislative Assembly where member student governments meet to vote on GSG policies, outline actions the GSG should take, and hold the Executive Committee accountable. Executive Committee members are elected by the individual students of each member student government. GSG also consists of an Advisory Board which is appointed by the Legislative Assembly to make constitutional rulings. In addition, GSG is equipped with a Consultation Group in which student organizations that are not student governments provide non-binding resolutions and reports to advise the Executive Committee and Legislative Assembly, exploring possibilities for cross-border extracurricular collaboration.



Membership Benefits

The GSG provides many benefits to its members, such as:

1. Direct input in GSG policy proposals, activism campaigns, governance

Your organization will help decide what the GSG advocates for.

2. Voting rights in GSG Legislative Assembly

Your organization will help shape the structure of the GSG as an organization.

3. A direct line to raise concerns to international audiences

Your organization will have opportunities to participate in GSG delegations to meetings of international governing bodies and networks where you can meet other education stakeholders and advocate for students.

4. Global network of student allies to assist in times of need

If your students are facing an emergency situation and need immediate advocacy support, the GSG can mobilize its member organizations to provide assistance. Your organization can similarly help students in other parts of the world to build your advocacy capacity.

5. Opportunities for cross-border service development

By bringing students from around the world together, the GSG may be able to develop services in future years that can improve the education experience of all students within the GSG. While members will likely need to vote on the creation of such services, some ideas being discussed include external partnerships that offer discounts for school supplies, student exchange programs, and scholarships. The GSG may also be able to help Consultation Group organizations scale up their activities to an international level.

6. Knowledge exchange, organizational development support

The GSG provides opportunities for you to network with student representatives from around the world so you can learn more about success stories and lessons learned when it comes to student representation and organizing activities. If your organization is facing challenges, the GSG can connect you with student leaders who can provide advice. The GSG also offers infrastructure support to help your organization build its capacities, such as if you need email addresses, a web page, or online storage space.

7. Your students have a direct voice in GSG leadership

You have an option to allow individual students in your organization to vote directly for the GSG Executive Committee, giving them a direct voice in who represents them while informing them about important student politics developments at the international level.

8. Strategic support in achieving advocacy goals

Do you want to build or rebuild a national or regional student government in your country? Is there a specific policy change your organization has been advocating for over a period of years? The GSG can help you achieve these long-term goals by working with you to develop a unique strategy, help connect you with relevant stakeholders, and provide resources for extra support. All students should have a democratic student government to represent them, and, if necessary, should have the resources to build student representation where it has collapsed or has never existed.

9. Opportunities for your students to get involved, build skills

We offer skill-building conferences and other events for individual students in your organization. These opportunities help them develop research skills on topics relevant to student government, or more practical skills such as how to develop and implement an advocacy campaign on a

campus, regional, national, or international level. These events also allow your students to network with their counterparts around the world and form lasting friendships.

10. Flexibility to join and leave

We understand that student governments are constantly evolving and each has unique needs. The GSG leaves it up to the rules of your organization when it comes to joining and leaving. If your organization decides to leave after a few years, it's okay and you are always welcome to rejoin later.

11. We're stronger together

Given the global policy trends that have been detrimental to student governments in the twenty-first century, your organization is under threat by other education stakeholders, political interests, and corporations that actively work against the student voice. They have more money and resources at their disposal than any single student government, but if we work together, we have a better chance of resisting these trends and defending student democracy for the future student generations. Going at it alone could put your organization at risk of collapse like those mentioned above on page one. The GSG is your organization's best hope for not only long-term survival, but continuous improvement.

Membership Fee Options

Amongst its many benefits, GSG's membership fees permit all students under the student organization member with GSG opportunities. Below are further details on the two fee options offered by GSG:

1. Conventional Levy
 - a. 1 Euro/student per year
 - b. All your students get voting rights, are informed about GSG opportunities
 - c. For student governments with individual membership systems and annual levies
2. Opt-In Revenue Sharing
 - a. Free
 - b. You promote the GSG to your students and they can choose to sign up via the GSG website for a set fee and actualize their GSG voting rights and access to opportunities. This fee is determined by your organization in collaboration with the GSG Executive Committee.
 - c. Half of the revenue collected goes to your organization
 - d. Your organization receives a list of your students who signed up each year so you can build an individual member list
 - e. For student governments without individual membership or levy systems who are experiencing financial difficulties

The GSG also offers Individual Memberships for students without a student government representing them or who are part of a student government that is not a GSG member. By Fall 2022, these students will be able to sign up as individuals on the GSG website, whereupon they will be regularly informed about GSG opportunities and will be able to vote in GSG elections as part of a special stateless constituency. If there is no existing student government in an

Individual Member's area, the GSG may work with them to build or restore a level of student democracy so they can be adequately represented in the future.

Consultation Group Benefits

The GSG Consultation Group allows extracurricular organizations that are not student governments to provide advice to elected students through non-binding resolutions and reports about how to improve the student experience. The Consultation Group also offers opportunities to receive a boost in advocacy in areas that align with the GSG, as well as skill-building events and activities with an extracurricular focus. Below are listed benefits for members under the consultation group:

1. Free to join

Extracurricular organizations are treated as civil society interest groups and do not need to pay fees like member student governments.

2. Opportunities to advise the GSG and its members on how to improve the student experience and what to advocate for

The Consultation Group will have periodic meetings where you can voice recommendations about what the GSG should work toward in advocacy and service development. These recommendations are shared with elected student leaders of the GSG Executive Committee, Legislative Assembly, and with the networks of member student governments.

3. Opportunities to network with similar organizations around the world

You can meet organizations that organize the same activities in other parts of the world, which provides opportunities for you to collaborate with them to scale up your operations to the next level. For example, if you usually organize a national conference or tournament every year, through the Consultation Group, you can build a cross-border network that will allow you to organize an international one.

4. Possibilities for advocacy and activism support

If you have advocacy priorities that align with the GSG, you essentially just gained a network of 10 million students to promote campaigns to, recruit volunteers from, and help you bring about the change you want to see in the world.

5. Opportunities to participate in GSG advocacy and activism

If there are active GSG campaigns that you align with, there may be opportunities for your students to participate in GSG operations, gaining valuable experience and helping make a difference.

6. Updates about GSG opportunities

We will keep your organization informed about relevant GSG developments and other opportunities that come through our network, so your students will know what is happening in student politics at the international level and how it affects them.

7. Opportunities to participate in GSG activities that promote skill building and organizational development

The GSG organizes conferences, other events, and activities to support extracurricular development. Whether this takes the form of extracurricular-focused segments of larger conferences about the student experience, or events and initiatives specifically catered to skill building for extracurricular organizations, there are plenty of opportunities for students in your organization to build skills and capacities to help make your activities the best they can be.

Budget

The first GSG representatives began their terms in June 2022, so the GSG's main infrastructure, including the implementation of its membership fee system, is still being implemented in consultation with member organizations. If all goes well and members who are part of the GSG's network are able to contribute fees as planned, estimated revenue and expenses for the 2022-23 fiscal year would be as follows.

Estimated Revenue (CAD)

Levy Fees	\$245,800
Opt-In Fees	\$20,000
Total	\$265,000

Estimated Expenses (CAD)

Green = necessary expenses to keep the GSG going as an organization

Student advocacy, aid, service development, and rebuilding student democracy ²	\$100,000
Transitioning volunteers into part-time staff at Canadian minimum wage	\$66,300
Emergency Reserve Fund (one time allocation)	\$58,940
Delegations and Travel	\$20,000
Legislative Assembly Conferences	\$2,000
Student Leadership Conference	\$2,000
Office Supplies	\$1,000

² This could include assisting member organizations with advocacy campaigns, helping students in a particular country build or rebuild a national or regional student government, or developing global services to improve quality of education for all students within the GSG. Specific campaigns and initiatives will depend on political developments around the world and the GSG's democratic decision-making.

Guaranteed Investment Certificate to Secure Credit Card (one time purchase)	\$1,000
Website	\$1,000
Social Media Promotion	\$1,000
Email Newsletter Software	\$700
Adding non-Canadian treasurer as bank account signing authority	\$50
HootSuite	\$300
Incorporation costs (one time purchase)	\$200
Zoom	\$200
Online Event Platform	\$200
Bank account fees	\$60
Total	\$265,000
Bare minimum to keep the GSG going	\$2,510

Grant, Sponsorship, and Partnership Opportunities

The GSG has a strict policy of being funded by students for its essential operations to prevent external influence by non-student stakeholders. With this being said, the GSG may be open to exploring sponsorship opportunities and other collaborations with organizations that have similar values and objectives for matters pertaining exclusively to supplementary initiatives that do not impact core GSG operations.

When implemented ethically, these collaborations could offer the possibility to amplify student advocacy to form alliances with non-student allies. Through these opportunities, the GSG plans to engage with other organizations in public events and campaigns that aim to increase knowledge, awareness, and dialogue in regards to student governments. In addition to monetary and in-kind contributions, sponsorships may take the form of discounts for products and services relevant to students.

In addition, sponsorship will provide opportunities for the GSG to develop regular skill development conferences with informative workshops for its members. These workshops will provide the opportunity to network with other student leaders and members of their respective unions.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact us via the links below on page eight.

Why Partner with the GSG?

The GSG represents a collective voice for students across local, national and international student bodies. With about 10 million students in its network, partnering with the GSG will help your organization reach a global student audience.

Conclusion

Thank you for considering the GSG and championing the cause of student democracy. Students today face substantial challenges, but our members joined together to create the GSG because we have hope for a better future for all students, a future in which they have a meaningful voice in their education and their society. If you have any questions or if there is anything you need, you are welcome to contact us anytime.

Contact Us

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