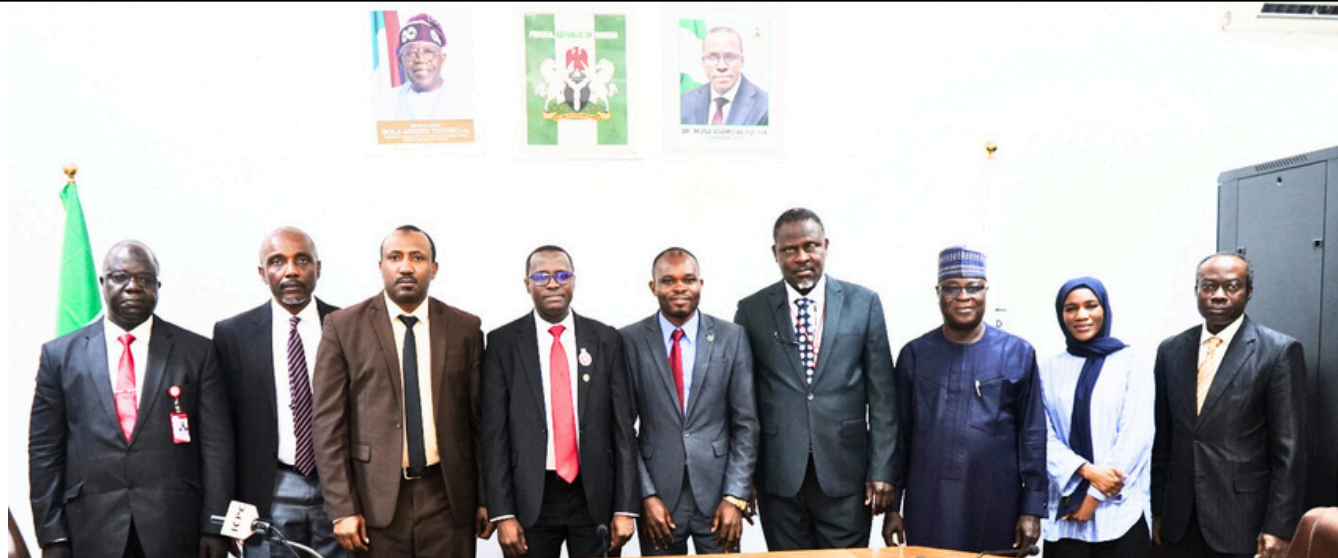




# MONTHLY TRANSPARENCY WATCH

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## *From the Public Relations Desk: Closing 2024 with Impact and Reflection*

As we bring 2024 to a close, we take pride in marking a milestone with the publication of the Civil Society Report on the implementation of Chapter II (Prevention) & Chapter V (Asset Recovery) of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption in Nigeria (UNCAC). This report provided a robust, independent review of Nigeria's implementation of the UNCAC.

The month also shone a spotlight on the Center's CSO UNCAC Monitoring Mechanism, which was celebrated as one of the UNCAC Coalition's 2024 Success Stories by civil society organizations globally. Furthermore, our impactful program on the Role of Youth in Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Enhance Anti-Corruption Efforts underscored the power of innovation and the potential of youth in driving ethical and transparent practices in governance.

In this final edition of the year, we look back on December's achievements and collaborations, such as our partnership with the ICPC to deepen Nigeria's anti-corruption efforts and the launch of the Climate Action Index with the CCAIE to advance subnational climate governance. These initiatives are a reflection of our resolve to promote accountability and sustainability.

We hope that you find this edition resourceful as we look forward to more collaboration in promoting good governance at all levels and the fight against corruption.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey throughout 2024. As we step into 2025, we invite you to continue collaborating with us to build a society rooted in integrity and transparency.

Wishing you a prosperous New Year!

Victor Agi  
Public Relations Officer

Supported by **MacArthur  
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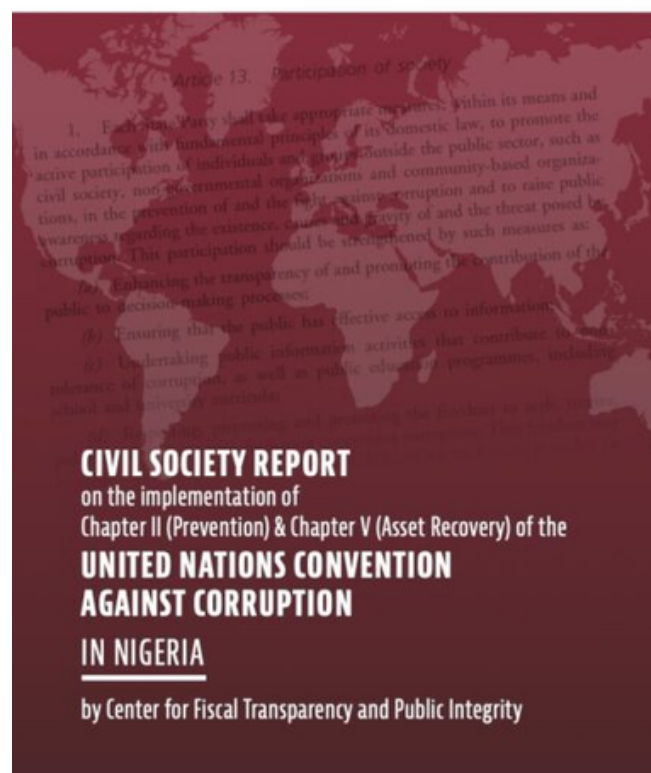
# New Civil Society Report on Nigeria: Need for Greater Independence of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Sub-National-Level UNCAC Implementation

A recent report authored by the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) finds that despite Nigeria's progress in establishing anti-corruption laws and policies, compliance with UNCAC Chapters II (Preventive Measures) and V (Asset Recovery) across the country is weak in practice. Anti-corruption agencies lack independence, there is no comprehensive whistleblowing legislation that adequately safeguards citizens reporting on corruption, and barriers persist in access to information. The report is intended as a contribution to the UNCAC implementation review process in its second cycle, produced with technical and financial support from the UNCAC Coalition.

## Main Findings

### Preventive anti-corruption policies, practices and bodies

Nigeria has made notable progress in the formulation of laws and policies on anti-corruption. The recent adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) (2022-2026) demonstrates Nigeria's commitment to combating corruption and aligning with international practices. The anti-corruption laws enacted enabled the establishment of anti-corruption bodies, including the Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms (TUGAR), which play a crucial role in implementing anti-corruption policies. TUGAR, in particular, is pivotal in coordinating anti-corruption initiatives, collecting data, and evaluating policies. The central role of TUGAR instills confidence in the system's effectiveness and ensures innovative practices among the anti-corruption agencies, reassuring the public.



Whilst there are some good practices, such as the coordination of the implementation of NACS by the Office of the Attorney-General and the monitoring and evaluation committee for the implementation of the NACS and the development of various anti-corruption instruments, there is low awareness of the NACS at the sub-national level, and no information is available to measure the reduction in corruption and the impact of establishing anti-corruption laws, agencies, and mechanisms. Further, the anti-corruption agencies lack structural independence.

Culled from the UNCAC Coalition website, you can access the full report here: <https://www.fiscaltransparency.org/publications-3/>, and summary of Main findings here: <https://uncaccoalition.org/uncacparallelreportnigeria/>

## PARTNERSHIP FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY: ICPC AND CEFTPI SIGN MOU TO COMBAT CORRUPTION

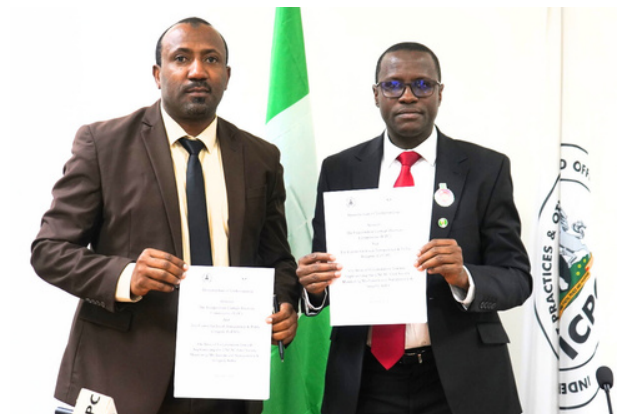
In a significant move towards enhancing fiscal transparency and combating corruption in Nigeria, the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on key anti-corruption initiatives.

The signing ceremony, which took place at the ICPC Headquarters, marks the beginning of a strategic partnership to address key challenges in Nigeria's governance and anti-corruption frameworks.

At the signing of the MoU, Dr. Musa Adamu, SAN emphasized the importance of transparency and access to information in the fight against corruption, stating that when data and information are in the open, it will be easier to track infractions and prosecute those responsible. On his part, the Executive Director of the Center, Dr. Umar Yakubu commended the willingness of key anti-graft agencies to partner with CSOs, which he described as a “new era” in the fight against corruption in the country.

This partnership focuses on key areas crucial for promoting integrity in public governance. The first area of focus is the implementation of recommendations from the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) monitoring framework developed by the Center. This aspect of the partnership is essential for supporting the implementation of the UNCAC civil society monitoring mechanism to strengthen Nigeria's anti-corruption framework. This collaboration will facilitate training sessions, workshops, and strategic engagements with government stakeholders to deepen understanding and mainstream UNCAC provisions. This effort will strengthen efforts at preventing corruption, public procurement and efficient management of public finances.

Details here:  
<https://www.fiscaltransparency.org/press-release.../>



## LEADING WITH INTEGRITY: DRIVING NORM AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

In November, the Executive Director of the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity, Dr. Umar Yakubu participated as a panelist in an executive session hosted by the Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC). The session, part of the “Anti-Corruption Training for Norm and Behavioral Change,” brought together CEOs and leaders from public agencies to discuss actionable strategies for strengthening institutional integrity and transparency.

At the Center, we firmly believe that the fight against corruption must adopt a whole-of-society approach, one that mobilizes every sector and level of society to promote accountability and uphold ethical standards. However, achieving this comprehensive response lies on the commitment of leadership across both public and private sectors to adopt and model “norm and behavioral change.” Only through such a transformation, embedded at all levels of leadership, can we cultivate a culture where integrity is not merely encouraged but becomes the standard practice in all institutions.

This event underscores the importance of engaging leaders in creating an environment where accountability and transparency are practiced daily. This effort is equally important for organizational behavioral change within public institutions, as it is strongly believed that when CEOs and heads of public agencies commit to transparency and accountability as core values, it will result in a cultural shift that influences employees’ day-to-day actions and decision-making processes. Such top-down reinforcement of ethical norms helps to establish organizational systems that prioritize integrity, create internal checks to discourage unethical behavior, and encourage a collective responsibility for high standards.

The Center remains committed to working with the ICPC and other stakeholders to ensure that the values of transparency, integrity, and accountability are firmly rooted in every level of our society.



# Scenes from International Anticorruption Day Event 2024



## IACD2024: CENTER CALLS ON YOUTH TO LEAD ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INNOVATION TO ENHANCE GOVERNANCE

In commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Day 2024 (#IACD2024), the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity hosted a workshop aimed at empowering youth in the fight against corruption. The event, themed “The Role of Youth in Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Enhance Anti-Corruption,” brought together young innovators, experts, and stakeholders to explore the transformative potential of technology in governance.

Dr. Umar Yakubu, Executive Director of the Center, opened the workshop with an address on the urgent need to combat endemic corruption that undermines public trust and hinders societal development. He emphasized that young people must play a crucial role in this fight, harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to analyze complex datasets, detect anomalies, and enhance governance efficiency.

“The true power of AI lies in the hands of those who utilize it,” Dr. Yakubu stated, urging participants to engage in meaningful discussions and develop actionable strategies that bridge technology and governance.

The workshop featured a panel discussion with experts showcasing practical applications of AI in anti-corruption efforts. Samuel Nnitiwe Theophilus, an AI Engineer, demonstrated how AI-powered platforms are improving transparency and minimizing fraud in public procurement processes. Additionally, Godwin Agaba Ochube, research officer at CeFTPI, introduced CASPER, a cutting-edge AI platform designed to revolutionize the criminal justice system by equipping stakeholders with intelligent analytics for data-driven decision-making.

More here: <https://www.fiscaltransparency.org/press-release-iacd2024-center-calls-on-youth-to-lead-artificial-intelligence-innovation-to-enhance-governance/>

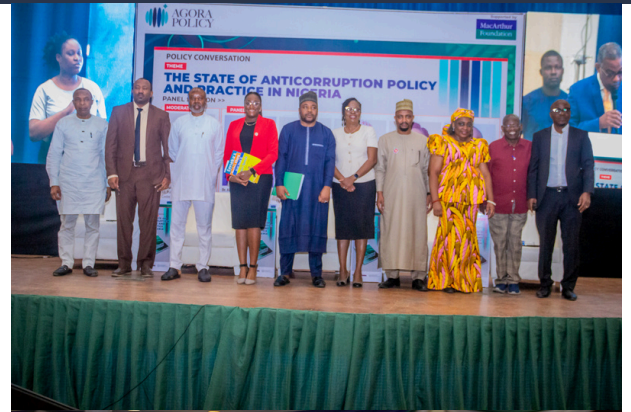


# Center and Partners Convene High-level Policy Conversation on State of Anti-corruption Policy and Practice in Nigeria

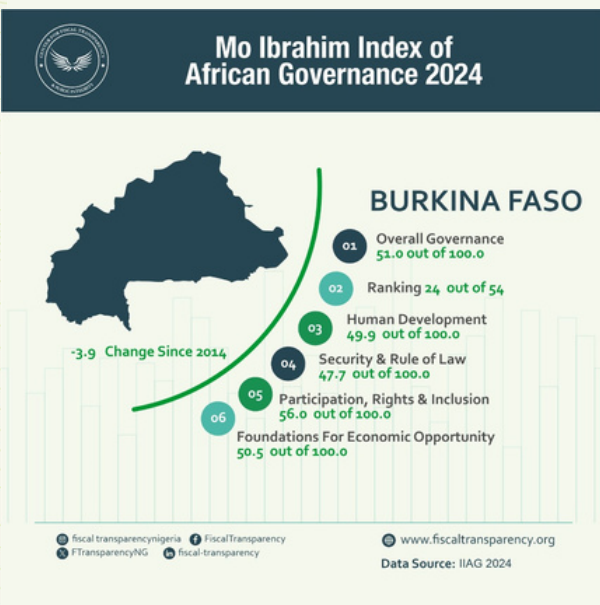
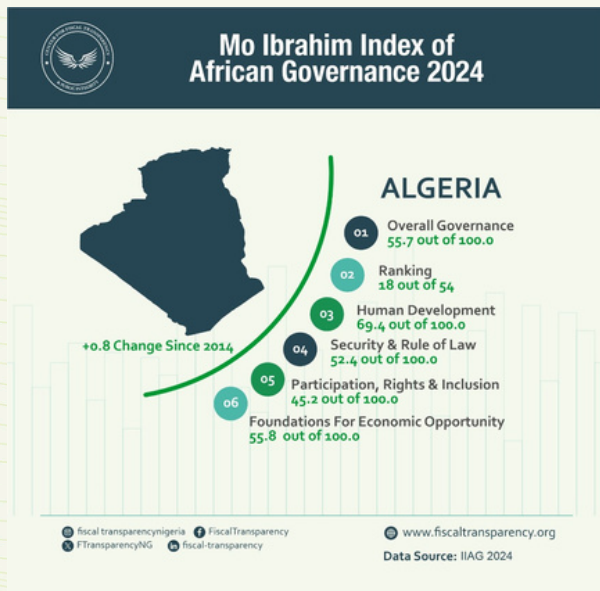
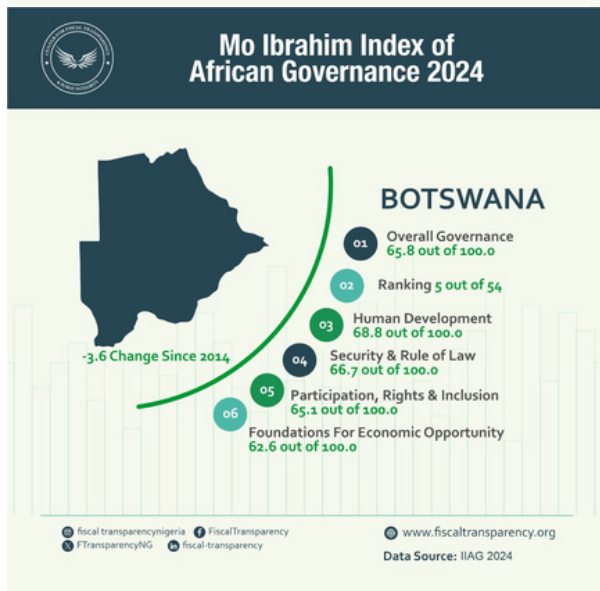
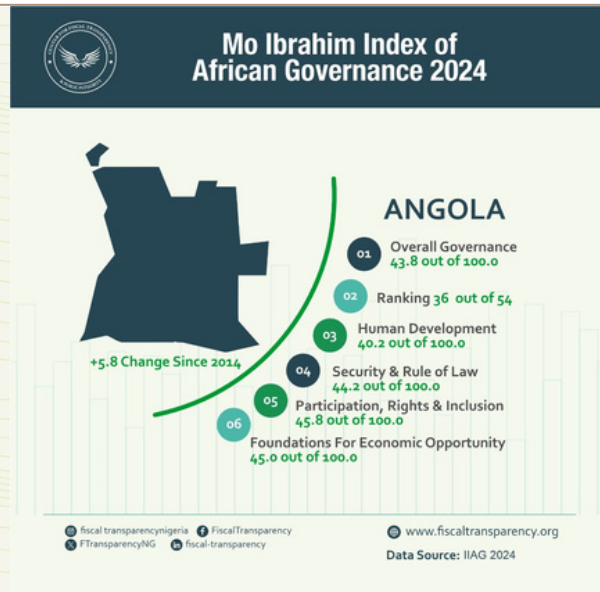
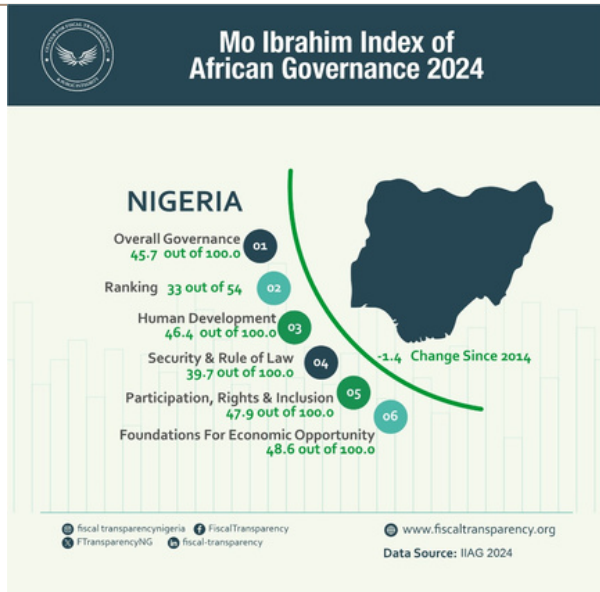
The Agora Policy, partnering with the Center and Centre for Democracy and Development organized a policy conversation on "The State of Anti-Corruption Policy and Practices in Nigeria." This collaborative event brought together stakeholders, including representatives from the government, private sector, civil society, international organizations, students, and youth groups, to discuss and exchange ideas to enhance the fight against corruption.

The conversation yielded several key outcomes, including a renewed focus on multi-stakeholder engagement to address corruption comprehensively. There was also a strong call to integrate youth-led anti-corruption efforts into national and local governance structures, ensuring that young people remain at the forefront of the fight against corruption.

Importantly, there was a call for the government to expedite action in passing the whistleblower protection bill into law to galvanize public support in the fight against corruption.



# MO IBRAHIM INDEX ON AFRICAN GOVERNANCE 2024





# Public officers and the family relocation wave

By Umar Yakubu

If you are not of the solution, you're part of the problem. – Eldridge Cleaver



Public officers are tasked with a spectrum of responsibilities encompassing policy development and execution, efficient resource management, service provision, public welfare, regulatory oversight, and enforcement. They are also charged with maintaining transparency and accountability in governance. These functions are pivotal for the enforcement of Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which is essential for fostering public trust and ensuring effective governance.

However, there is an emerging trend among public officers, which has been ongoing for some time, wherein active public servants retain their positions in Nigeria, while relocating their families abroad. Initially, this practice involved sending children overseas for education, but it has now expanded to include the relocation of entire families. These officers remain in their official capacities, exploiting national resources. While this practice is not illegal, it poses significant challenges to national development.

The public service sector is currently encumbered with inefficiencies, characterised by an excessive number of agencies and personnel. The proliferation of ministries, departments, and agencies, along with the substantial number of public officers, has led to escalating recurrent expenditures without corresponding positive outcomes. This sector is plagued by numerous agencies, redundant functions, inefficient government-owned enterprises, poor work ethic, and a lackadaisical attitude towards public service at

both the national and sub-national levels. In many agencies, the proportion of productive staff is often below 30 per cent.

Those who are productive are frequently marginalised as they pose a threat to the entrenched status quo and are consigned to being the minority. The political class, with its resistance to change, has hindered the implementation of the Oronsanye Report and other reform initiatives.

In the absence of government data to measure effectiveness and efficiency, let's use the African Index on Governance 2024 as a barometer. The report indicates that overall governance in Nigeria has declined from 2014 till date to 45 per cent, one of the lowest scores in Africa. Indicators such as Personal Safety, Accountability, Rule of Law under the Security theme have all declined within the last period of assessment, with a score of 39 per cent. Similar declines are reported under Welfare, Education, Health, Public Management, Business Environment, Infrastructure and Rural Sector. Who are the drivers of these sectors? Public officers who are now stowing their families away, which infer that things may get worse, for their commitment is in doubt.

Read full article on PremiumTimes: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/754432-public-officers-and-the-family-relocation-wave-by-umar-yakubu.html?tztc=1>

# CeFTPI, CCAIE Set to Lead Post-COP29 Engagement with Climate Action Index, Signs MoU



The conclusion of COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan brought fresh commitments from global leaders to intensify climate action, including leaders committing to triple finance to developing countries, protect lives and livelihoods. With cities and local authorities reportedly contributing approximately 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the need for a structured, localized approach has never been more urgent.

Against this backdrop, the Centre for Climate Action, Innovation, and Engagement (CCAIE) and the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) have launched a strategic partnership to address climate challenges in Nigeria through the development of the Climate Action Index (CAI) for subnationals.



As a signatory to the Paris Agreement and with the adoption of the Climate Change Act of 2021, Nigeria has made bold commitments to achieve a 45% emissions reduction by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2060. However, translating these national targets into actionable results at the subnational level has been a persistent challenge. The CAI offers a solution by providing a transparent and standardized framework to evaluate, rank, and support local governments in their climate efforts.

This partnership for the development of CAI will assess subnational governments on key areas, including transparency in climate financing, policy alignment, and the adoption of sustainable technologies. This aligns with Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and ensures grassroots participation and innovation.



Details [here:](https://www.fiscaltransparency.org/ceftpi-ccaie-set-to-lead-post-cop29-engagement-with-climate-action-index-signs-mou/)  
<https://www.fiscaltransparency.org/ceftpi-ccaie-set-to-lead-post-cop29-engagement-with-climate-action-index-signs-mou/>



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