Operations on type never

The type never is the type of forbidden values. The most prominent scenario in which never is used is when implementing a contract template with no additional entrypoint. A contract template defines a set of basic entrypoints, and its parameter declaration contains a type variable for additional entrypoints in some branch of an union type, or wrapped inside an option type. Letting this type variable be never in a particular implementation indicates that the contract template has not been extended, and turns the branch in the code that processes the additional entrypoints into a forbidden branch.

Values of type never cannot occur in a well-typed program. However, they can be abstracted in the parameter declaration of a contract—or by using the LAMBDA operation—thus indicating that the corresponding branches in the code are forbidden. The type never also plays a role when introducing values of union or option type with LEFT never, RIGHT never, or NONE never. In such cases, the created values can be inspected with the operations IF_LEFT, IF_RIGHT, or IF_NONE, and the corresponding branches in the code are forbidden branches.

• NEVER: Close a forbidden branch.

```
:: never : 'A -> 'B
```

• COMPARE: Trivial comparison on type never

```
:: never: never: 'S -> int: 'S
```