



SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

**Abstract of Decisions Taken By
General Assembly
Held at Mar del Plata, Argentina
September, 2009**

Servas International General Assembly 2009

Decisions Taken On September 7, 2009

Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
1	The amended agenda (page number 5 of Kit for Success) accepted.
2	Rules of Order (page number 16 of Kit for Success) accepted.
3	Minutes of SI GA 2006 accepted as presented.
4	Report of SI President Gary Sealey (page number 36 of Kit for Success) accepted.
5	Report of SI Vice President Mary Jane Mikuriya (page number 51 of Kit for Success) accepted.
6	Report of SI Treasurer L.V. Subramanian (page number 53 of Kit for Success) accepted.
7	Report of SI Peace Secretary Nandasena Amarasinghe (page number 69 of Kit for Success) accepted.
8	Report of SI General Secretary Pramod Kumar (page number 88 of Kit for Success together with a supplementary report presented orally) accepted. A printed copy of the supplementary report (9 pages) was later given to all delegates.
9	Report of SI Host List Coordinator Anna Flammini (page number 97 of Kit for Success) accepted.
10	Independent Auditor's Report for the years 2007, 2006 and 2005 (page number 240 of Kit for Success) accepted.

Decisions Taken On September 8, 2009

Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
1	Bolivia reinstated as a member group of Servas International.
2	Cameroon accepted as a member group of Servas International.
3	Congo-Brazzaville accepted as a member group of Servas International.
4	Greece accepted as a member group of Servas International.
5	Kazakhstan accepted as a member group of Servas International.
6	Taiwan accepted as a member group of Servas International.

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SI General Secretary 2006-2009

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7	The status of Bangladesh changed from member group to national group.
8	Kyrgyzstan and Paraguay to retain member status.
9	Zimbabwe and Netherlands Antilles lose member status in Servas International.
10	Mauritius loses member status in Servas International.
11	Latvia to retain member status in Servas International.

Decisions Taken On September 9, 2009

Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
1	The 3 Youth reports (page numbers 100, 106 and 110 of Kit for Success) accepted.
2	Gary Sealey (Canada) elected SI President by acclamation.
3	Pramod Kumar (India) elected SI Vice President.
4	In order to retain its voting rights at the GA, a member country must have published a host list not older than two years and must have submitted an annual report for at least one of the two previous years.
5	Penny Pattison (Canada) elected SI General Secretary by acclamation.
6	Mirosław Wasilewski (Poland) elected SI Treasurer.
7	A group to be set up to recommend revised stamp fees by December 31, 2009. Five persons including treasurers and people from small and large Servas countries will serve on the committee and US\$ 100 to be provided for communication expenses for the group.
8	Pablo Colangelo (Argentina) elected SI Host List Coordinator by acclamation.
9	Kim Jong Soo (South Korea) elected SI Peace Secretary.
10	Nominations for election at the GA to be accepted until immediately before the start of the voting.
11	To discuss and find ways of how Servas can help small national groups to grow and flourish, in the next decade, 1) As recommended by the Development Committee, to use

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	<p>buddies, mentors and traveling ambassadors, to further the Servas concepts of peace and development in small/new countries and small communities.</p> <p>2) To revise the Servas Handbook to make it more user friendly for small/new Servas groups.</p> <p>3) To encourage individuals and families to meet in order to help Servas set up and grow in past and present conflict areas. This will help promote peace in these more challenging areas.</p> <p>4) To give voice to the small/new countries by encouraging them to participate at the GA.</p> <p>5) To use the ideas and practical suggestions in the Intelligent Roadmap to help the development and growth of small/new countries in Servas.</p> <p>To put in place systems and processes to ensure that small/new countries are more actively involved in the Servas spirit.</p> <p>A US\$ 500 annual budget may be necessary to support members in their role as mentors, buddies and ambassadors.</p> <p>To promote these roles by adding a few sentences to the letter of introduction form.</p> <p>Responsibility to be with the Development Committee (formerly Development Fund Committee), Peace Secretary and Vice President.</p>
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Decisions Taken On September 10, 2009

Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
1	<p>To develop an action plan that promotes Servas values including tolerance, open mindedness, building friendship, peace, and nonviolence;</p> <p>To set goals and a content for a Servas course to train Servas hosts, travelers, and officers to become peace advocates;</p>

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	<p>Responsibility to be with the Peace Secretary.</p> <p>Funding will be required up to US\$ 2,000 per year for any required courses.</p>
2	<p>Servas National Groups to develop strategies and action plans for Servas outreach and cooperation with other organizations with similar values and goals.</p> <p>Responsibility to be with the national groups, Peace Secretaries and National Secretaries with guidance and coordination from the Servas International Peace Secretary, if necessary.</p> <p>We expect that most national groups would fund this; however, we propose US\$ 200 per year to enable groups without sufficient income to develop these strategies and action plans.</p>
3	<p>All National Secretaries, national teams, and boards to be e-mailed a .pdf version and a link to the online version of the annual SI News, and also to be mailed a disk copy if required. National groups to be asked to forward this to all their hosts and travelers in electronic or print versions as appropriate.</p> <p>Any other SI Newsletters to be sent to national groups by e-mail with a link.</p> <p>To be implemented for the next annual newsletter. Budget required US\$ 2,000 per year.</p>
4	<p>A) Small grants of US\$ 200 for new countries be managed by the DC; that DC prepare a simple format for applying for these grants; and that the criteria be as follows: 1) must be applied for by a key person from another member country, e.g., Area Coordinator, National Secretary, Distant Interviewer, Host List Coordinator. 2) the receiving country must have a minimum of five hosts. 3) a brief report of how the money has been used must be sent to the requesting key person within one year with receipts when available.</p> <p>B) Small grants of US\$ 200 for existing countries be managed by DC; that DC must create a simple format for applying for these grants and that the criteria be as follows:</p>

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	<p>1) must be applied for by the National Secretary or the main contact or another key person from the same country.</p> <p>2) for the first time of applying a plan of how the money is to be used is not required but the second time, a plan will be required.</p> <p>3) a brief report of how the money has been used must be sent to the DC within one year with receipts when available.</p>
5	<p>An amount of US\$ 3,000 should be set aside in the budget for each of the next three years for small grants for new and existing countries. This would fund about twelve (12) countries plus costs.</p>
6	<p>Item 1 of the Principles section of the Servas Regulations for Distant Voting be amended to read as follows:</p> <p>“The Distant Voting process shall operate by sending the motions and the voting information to the National Secretary of each member group who shall ensure the Distant Vote is sent in for counting”. Also the related references to “Authorized Voter” shall be replaced by “National Secretary”.</p>
7	<p>Item 3 of Servas Regulations for Distant Voting be amended to read as follows:</p> <p>“Each member group shall decide itself who will cast the distant vote on their behalf and how the group will determine if the vote on each motion is to be, ‘for’, ‘against’ or ‘abstain’ ”.</p>
8	<p>Item 5 of the Principles section of the Servas Regulations for Distance Voting be amended to read as follows:</p> <p>“The Distant Vote Administrator shall facilitate informed discussion of items to be decided by distant vote. (For example, by setting up a web based forum and/or providing mailing lists to the submitter of the item and member groups).”</p>
9	<p>The Development Committee should be empowered to provide grants for meetings with specific purposes in line with Servas ideals, such as meetings proposing peace between two countries.</p> <p>A budget should be set aside for development grants for activities such as area meetings, peace meetings and other projects as follows: 2010: US\$ 9,000, 2011: US\$ 9,500, 2012: US\$ 10,000.</p>
10	<p>SI host list coordinator will set up a host list testing system together with a team to ensure reliability, beginning in January 2010, according</p>

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	to Servas working group guidelines. The budget needed will be US\$ 800 for 2010 and US\$ 800 for 2012.
11	<p>The GA approves and accepts the presented action plan for the period 2010/2011/2012 as a framework for Servas Youth activities including the budget attached.</p> <p>Budget 2010 US\$ 10,000; 2011 US\$ 10,500; 2012 US\$ 11,000.</p>
12	Aneris Cao (Argentina), Luisa Corbetta (Italy), Judith Shotten (Israel), Sally Lee (Malaysia) and Mary Jane Mikuriya (USA) elected to Development Committee.
13	Audit Committee to have only 3 members.
14	L. V. Subramanian (India), Jonny Saganger (Sweden) and Phyllis Chinn (USA) elected to Audit Committee.
15	Julie Dotsch (Canada), Daryl Chinn (USA) and Luigi Uslenghi (Italy) elected to Conflict Resolution Committee.
16	Ann Greenough (Britain), Sylvia Krogh (Canada) and Anna Flammini (Italy) elected to Nominations Committee by acclamation.
17	Almery Tessarolo (Argentina) and team elected as SI Newsletter Editor. Michael Johnson (Canada) offered to work with the team.
18	Grant Barnes (USA) elected Archivist by acclamation.
19	Magiari Diaz Diaz (Venezuela) elected Youth Development Officer by acclamation.
20	Pablo Chufeni (Argentina) elected Youth Coordinator by acclamation.
21	<p>Noreen Mirza (Pakistan) and Chris Jones (Canada) elected to Job Description/Statutes Committee by acclamation.</p> <p>EXCO has the power to appoint a 3rd person to the Committee.</p>
22	<p>A Servas Online program shall be developed and implemented by the end of 2011 and that this program shall be evaluated at the next GA.</p> <p>The financing of Servas Online should be administered in an independent account to be opened by 31 Jan 2010. This account should be reserved exclusively for this purpose and that this financial arrangement should be evaluated at the next GA.</p> <p>A Servas Online Servicing Team in cooperation with ICT be created.</p>

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	An investment of EUR 10,000/US\$ 14,500/CHF 15,000 per year be allocated. This will be recovered by savings from reduction in printing and distribution expenses. One Swiss Franc to be charged annually for every member of a National Group (which has over 100 members now) and other willing countries pay the service contribution.
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Decisions Taken On September 11, 2009

Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
1	Allow proxy voting for elections at General Assemblies to enable member countries not present at the GA to participate in the election process.
2	Register SI as an NGO in the canton of Zurich, Switzerland, and appoint a qualified agent for service of processes such as the organisation's "mail drop" for legal documents. The cost of registration and appointing an agent to be found out. In addition, US\$ 100 may be provided for correspondence.
3	Anyone elected or nominated to a post in Servas will be informed unambiguously of what is expected of them and what expenses will be reimbursed.
4	The budget for area coordinators to be US\$ 24,000 per year.
5	The ICT budget be US\$12,000 in 2010, US\$ 8,000 in 2011, US\$ 8,000 in 2012 and US\$ 4,000 in 2013 and the on-line program budget be US\$ 15,000 in 2010, US\$ 15,000 in 2011, US\$ 10,500 in 2012 and US\$ 7,000 in 2013.
6	Adopt a four year budget, with a GA planned in the 3 rd year, with cuts to the following budget line items: EXCO Expenses 25 % over 4 years. AC Conference 25 % over 4 years Youth Meetings 26% over 4 years GA Expenses 25% over 4 years To reduce the deficit after 4 years to about 25,000 CHF. Deficits to be funded from SI reserves. And that this budget be reviewed and

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SI General Secretary 2006-2009**

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	<p>updated each year to actually reflect actual income and expenses. The updated budget to be approved by distant vote. Youth budget to be 8000 CHF for each of the 4 years.</p> <p>Explanatory Note: The GA appointed a Budget Group, which prepared and presented a draft budget. The cuts as stated above were applied to the respective line items in this draft budget. The budget as approved (after applying the cuts) is attached as Appendix – 1 on page 12 of this document.</p>
7	<p>Chris Patterson (New Zealand) elected Distant Vote Administrator by acclamation (after he announced that in order to avoid any conflict of interest, he will resign from the office of Joint National Secretary of Servas New Zealand).</p>
8	<p>a) A Youth Travel Award fund be set up to offer a Youth Travel Award to sponsor at least one young person to each GA and International Youth Meeting when funds are available. There will be a commitment to fairly distribute any funding available to different regions of the world. Donations to the fund will be invited from individual Servas members and National Groups and, in time, approaches will be made to charitable fund and foundations who have resources to offer.</p> <p>b) As an interim arrangement, donations would be received into a new account in Britain to be managed and audited by Servas Britain but accountable to SI Treasurer. At such time as new arrangements are in place for SI banking in the Euro zone, consideration will be given to moving the fund to an SI account</p> <p>c) A working group of the Servas Youth Team will consider the practicalities of setting up a Youth Travel Award Trust Fund. A progress report will be given to the next GA.</p>
9	<p>A resource will be set up on the SI website and Servas Youth website where hosts from different countries can make known what experiences they can offer to young Servas travellers, in terms of their special interests and expertise. In addition it will also indicate where hosts can open up opportunities for work or volunteer experience in their local community.</p>
10	<p>A family home page will be set up on the SI website to promote Servas as a family-friendly organization.</p> <p>This will provide access to a secure on-line forum, which will be a focal point for discussion between families with children and young people too young to travel alone. It will encourage links between</p>

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	families to develop common interests and activities.
11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The DFC be called a Development Committee of SI. 2) Instead of waiting for applications to fund (like the present DFC) it should be pro-active. 3) The DC should encourage through regular communications to all of Servas (NS and EXCO plus monthly Servas News) the development project. 4) Each NG as part of its strategic planning should include a development plan for the next three years. Where there are difficulties in this task the DC should find ways to assist the NG to develop its 3 year strategic plan. 5) The DC will be pro-active in offering assistance to new/small member groups. 6) The DC will be a facilitator and bridge between NG if and when various NG are interested in similar projects. 7) The DC should be pro-active in fund raising to support Servas projects. 8) The DC will establish relationships with youth and accommodate those members who wish to volunteer as assistants to the DC. The DC will also liaise with Area Coordinators to achieve objectives.
12	Implement an online financial tool to control stamp fee, membership and other contributions.
13	Three voting options be retained by distant vote and that sub clause 9 of section 7 in the Statutes be amended to read: "that distant voting process shall include three voting options for each motion "Support/Yes", "Against/No", and "Abstain". And that "Abstain" votes shall not be counted as a vote for or against the motion".
14	<p>"To consider and redefine the future of Servas in the light of our own roots and ideals of local communities and the world.</p> <p>"To learn from and interact with other organizations without ever losing our Servas identities.</p> <p>"To move forward into the digital age in creative and active ways, not only based on the Internet but on the needs of these new times, especially those needs that can find guidance and answers in Bob Luitweiler's non-violent thinking.</p> <p>"To set up a working group to define short and long term goals and</p>

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	investigate strategies and action plans including youth and local community work.”
15	<p>“We request the ‘Job descriptions and Statutes Committee’ to produce a list of functions for the position Area Coordinator, including the specific participation of the National Secretaries (NS) of the area in the elaboration of this final document.</p> <p>“We request to take these items produced during the Central America Regional Conference of Costa Rica as a starting point:</p> <p>“1. To hold as a minimum, an annual meeting with the National Groups (NG) of the area.</p> <p>“2. To interact with other Area Coordinators functioning as an ambassador from SI and as a representative from SI to the National Groups.</p> <p>“3. To know the procedure manual of SI.</p> <p>“4. To ensure that the National Secretaries respond immediately to the e-mail messages of SI.</p> <p>“5. All the information that the Area Coordinator will provide to Servas International must be known by the National Secretaries.”</p>
16	Strengthen and implement the Financial Operating Procedures with the active help of the Audit Committee.
17	<p>“In part of the world where Servas home visits are not possible or are difficult due to cultural, political or economic situations, Servas to consider new case study projects related to Servas goals such as (1) to promote non-violent thinking, (2) to exchange cultural and language experiences, and (3) to build peace in harmony with the environment.</p> <p>“To establish a Servas project team, if needed, which the national groups can consult when they have an idea for a Servas project.</p> <p>“This team will evaluate the project and support the initiators in carrying it out.</p> <p>“A project data bank to be started and maintained on line to keep track of/monitor projects in different areas and to inform about progress/success of projects and any lessons learned.</p> <p>“Responsibility to be with the Vice-President and Development Committee working with the project team and ICT.”</p>
18	Marijke Batenburg, National Secretary of NZ, reporting to the General Secretary of Servas International will create a project team of three members to document and publish guidelines for National Secretaries and boards regarding how to handle feedback and complaints concerning hosts and travelers. A preliminary version will be submitted by October 2010 for comments and distribution

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	electronically, to National Secretaries and boards for their comments.
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Decisions Taken On September 12, 2009

Serial Number	General Assembly Decision
1	Status of Ghana changed from member group to national group.
2	Status of Gambia and Ukraine changed from member group to national group.
3	Membership status of Nepal cancelled because there are two groups claiming to represent Servas.
4	Status of Samoa changed from member group to national group because it does not fulfill the requirements to be a member.
5	Appoint Vasudev Pai & Company (of Bangalore, India) as the external auditor for Servas International for the years 2009 to 2013.
6	The Statutes of Servas International adopted at the 2006 General Assembly in Latina and as amended at this General Assembly at Mar del Plata, September 2009, be adopted as the Statutes of Servas International replacing all previous versions.
7	The General Assembly recognize the Servas Youth as an integral part of Servas International and that the words "Servas Youth International Coordinator" and "Youth Development Officer" be added to clause iii officers of SI Statutes, after the words "Servas International News Editor".
8	When a Servas country wants to make a donation to enable another country to send a delegate to participate in a GA, it must inform EXCO of this intent to donate. A request concerning the recipient(s) can be made but it is for EXCO and the relevant Area Coordinator, to use criteria to decide to which country/countries the money will go. After that decision, the money will go directly to the recipient(s). It is highly recommended that donor countries should respect EXCO's decision.
9	The next General Assembly to be held in 2012.
10	All the ballots (for SI elections) to be destroyed.

Prepared by Pramod Kumar,
SI General Secretary 2006-2009

APPENDIX - 1

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL, BUDGET for 2010-2013 - Adopted by GA, 11 September 2009						
All figures are Swiss Francs CHF	2010	2011	2012	2013	Changes	Remarks
Stamp Fee	95,000	97,850	100,786	103,809		
GA Regularization fees			60,000			
Host Contribution	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500		New contribution
Bank Interest	950	979	1,008	1,038		
TOTAL INCOME	109,450	112,329	175,293	118,347		
Expense Heads						
Printing cost SI Newsletter	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000		
Printing cost SI Stamps	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000		
Expenses of Exco Meeting	19,700	19,700	20,800	20,800		25% Cut in spending
Expenses of AC Conference (6 AC)	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000		25% Cut in spending
Expenses of SI committees	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,400		
Expenses Youth Meeting	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000		26% As agreed (% error corrected)
UN	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200		
Servas on line program	15,000	15,000	10,500	7,000		
ICT	12,000	8,000	8,000	4,000		
External Auditor	1,500	1,545	1,591	1,639		
Accounting Expenses	1,200	1,236	1,273	1,311		
Bank Expenses	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000		
Training Expenses	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000		
Country office grants	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000		
Grants to DFC	9,200	9,700	10,200	10,700		
GA Expenses	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,500		25% Cut costs or 4 yr GA
Archivist project	5,000	1,500	1,500	1,500		
Distant voting	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,500		
TOTAL EXPENSES	142,600	136,181	133,864	127,550	-4%	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT (-)	-33,150	-23,853	41,429	-9,203	-24,777	
Aggregate Surplus/Deficit	-33,150	-57,003	-15,574	-24,777		