

1. Heading for motion (maximum 10 words)
To hold a distant Extraordinary Servas International General Assembly (E-SIGA) 2021
2. Sender of the proposed SI DV motion (for example SI member group)
Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco)
3. Exact wording of the motion to be voted on
<p>SI Exco's proposal:</p> <p>Wording of motion changed Refer to Motion 4 for final wording</p> <p>Servas International's (SI's) member groups decide through this SI Distant Vote (SI DV) that SI Exco will arrange a distant Extraordinary Servas International General Assembly (E-SIGA) during 2021 with the goal to perform a voting process about changes to the SI Statutes.</p> <p>The changes will allow SI to formally register as an international non-governmental organisation (iNGO) in Switzerland with a registration number. Such a registration has been the goal for SI for a long time.</p> <p>SI member groups may vote YES, NO or ABSTAIN on this motion.</p>
4. Background information and reasons for proposing the motion
<p>What will the E-SIGA voting be about?</p> <p>Member groups eligible to vote will during the distant E-SIGA 2021 be able to vote Yes/support, No/against or Abstain to a proposal from Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco) to formalize Servas International's registration as an international non-governmental organisation, iNGO, in Switzerland.</p> <p>This is an initiative that was decided and partly financed by SI GA 2015, with additional funding from SI GA 2018.</p> <p>Why is there a need for an E-SIGA?</p> <p>A distant vote in November 2011 authorized SI Exco to seek a suitable country in which to formally register SI. At the Servas International General Assembly (SI GA) SI Vice President Pramod Kumar – at the request of Servas Turkey – Vice President Pramod Kumar gave a summary of the status of SI Registration. Pramod Kumar informed SI GA that no suitable country had been found.</p> <p>On 15th of October 2015 the SI GA made the following decision:</p> <p><i>“It is agreed to register Servas International (SI) as a recognized international non-governmental organisation (INGO) with a domicile, with a budget of 27000 CHF from the SI financial reserves for the period 2015-2018. This will include an international group of legal experts to ensure that SI is registered in a way that works effectively for all countries.”</i></p> <p>The research that has been done by SI Exco during the mandate period 2016–2018 and the current SI Exco for 2019–2022 has shown that the Commercial Registry Office of the Canton of Zurich (Handelsregisteramt) require that some amendments to the SI Statutes need to be made in order for the formal registration of Servas International to be executed.</p> <p>Is there a Servas International constitutional support for an E-SIGA?</p> <p>Yes, there's constitutional support for an E-SIGA.</p> <p>This is expressed in the SI Statutes (2018).</p> <p>Excerpt from SI Statutes (2018):</p> <p>/.../</p> <p>IV General Assembly</p> <p>1) The General Assembly of Servas International shall consist exclusively of one delegate from each member group. These delegates have the right to vote and to speak. The officers of Servas International have speaking rights only. The General Assembly may also grant speaking rights (which may be restricted to specified agenda items) to other individuals.</p> <p>2) The General Assembly shall meet at regular intervals as decided by each General Assembly. In addition to this, the General Assembly may be convened at any time when requested by at least one fifth of member groups. In such an event, at least three months' written notice, including agenda, time and place, must be given to each member group.</p>

/.../

5. Who is responsible for accomplishing the results of the motion?

Name/names + function/functions:
SI Exco:
Jonny Sägänger (SI President) president@servas.org
Radha B. Radhakrishna (SI Treasurer) treasurer@servas.org
Jim Leask & Paul Nielsen (SI Membership & Technology Secretary) mts@servas.org
Carla Kristensen (SI Vice President) vicepresident@servas.org
Kiat Y Tan, SI General Secretary generalsecretary@servas.org
Paige Lacombe, SI Peace Secretary peacesecretary@servas.org

6. Benefits for SI

It has been pointed out by SI GA 2012 and SI GA 2015 that it's important that SI gets a formal registration.

- a) SI needs to get a formal registration to be recognized as an international non-governmental organisation, iNGO, both to external players and internally in SI. SI needs to be able to prove that it exists.
- b) A formal registration opens up for benefits, better rates on or even free products and services, for example computer software. It becomes easier to raise money and to do transactions.
- c) It's important for Servas country and members groups to be able to present documents that verifies for their national authorities, banks et cetera that SI is a registered iNGO, so they can get national registration and bank accounts.

7. Resource needs - time, human resources and specialist expertise

SI Exco will be responsible for making the arrangements needed to hold a distant E-SIGA.

8. Budget implications

7 000 Swiss francs has been allocated for legal expenses in connection with the SI registration in the SI budget for April 1 2021 to March 31 2022. This expense is in line with the SI General Assembly 2018 decision about SI's long term budget.

9. Does it affect the SI statutes?

10. What is the impact if the motion does not get approved by the SI DV?

- a) Servas country and members groups will continue to experience grave difficulties to get national registration and bank accounts as long as they are not able to present documents that verifies for their national authorities, banks et cetera that Servas International is a formally registered international non governmental organisation, iNGO.
- b) SI will continue to miss out from financial benefits, better rates on or even free products and services, for example computer software.
- c) SI will also in the future not be able to raise money through donations and will continue to have difficulties to do financial transactions.

For Minute Taker Use Only:

Amendments (Passed or defeated)

Final Motion (Passed or defeated)

About SI Distant Voting (SI DV)

Excerpt from SI Statutes:

7. A motion for inclusion in the next SI Distant Vote (SI DV) may be submitted to the SI President when requested by at least one tenth of the SI member groups (represented by their National Secretaries), or by any member of the SI Executive Committee (SI Exco). All motions submitted by member groups must be sent to the SI President at least four months before the scheduled closing date for the vote to be included in a Distant Vote.

8) In addition to Clause 7, the General Assembly may specifically authorise a committee or working group to prepare and submit motions to be voted on by the Distant Voting process. 9) The 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.

Source: SI Statutes (2018)

https://servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/other_files/2019/Servas_International_Statutes_SI_GA_2018.pdf

The motions to be decided in a SI Distant Vote must be sent by SI Exco to SI member groups at least 3 months before the close of voting.

You find further information and deadlines for the SI DV instructions on SIs website, here:

<https://servas.org/en/distant-vote>