

MOTION FOR
SERVAS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022
(SIGA 2022)



1. Heading for the proposal in this motion (No more than 10 words)

Human-Earth ethic to complement the Human-Human ethic in the Servas International Statutes.

2. Date and place for this motion.

2022-08-20 Stockholm, Sweden, and Auckland, New Zealand

3. SI member group(s) or SI Exco member(s) who is responsible for this motion.

Note that only SI Member Groups or SI Executive Committee (SI Exco, Servas International's global board) may propose motions for a SIGA.

SI Exco member Jonny Sågänger, SI President, in collaboration with Dr Robert Howell, Servas New Zealand & author of "Investing in People and the Planet. Issues behind the News".

4. Exact wording of the proposal to be voted on.

We propose that SIGA 2022 approves that (one or more goals and/or actions):

- Parts of the preamble of the SI Statutes (2021) to be changed to reflect that Servas members recognizes the need include the Human-Earth ethic to complement the Human-Human ethic.

Proposed new wording of the SI Statutes (new wording with bold text)

Principles: The **first** fundamental principle of Servas International is the belief in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of all human beings as a foundation for a more peaceful world.

The second fundamental principle is that we accept our responsibility to respect and care for the planet, recognising the web of life that links all aspects of our interdependent natural world.

Ethos and Values: We, the members of Servas, believe that our lives are enriched when we meet, interact, share and learn from each other. **Our key values are caring for people and the planet.**

Vision and Mission: The aim of the networking is to create conditions for exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge that promote tolerance and understanding between the peoples of the world. **We aim to do this in a way that is in keeping with our principles and values.**

SIGA 2022 must be able to vote YES, NO or ABSTAIN on a SIGA proposal.

5. Implications on SI Statutes 2021.

The SI Statutes are accessible on the internet here:

<https://servas.org/en/community/board-and-management/administration>

Current SI Statutes (2021)

1.1 Principles, Ethos and Values, Vision and Mission

Principles: The fundamental principle of Servas International is the belief in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of all human beings as a foundation for a more peaceful world.

Ethos and Values: We, the members of Servas, believe that our lives are enriched when we meet, interact, share and learn from each other.

Vision and Mission: The aim of the networking is to create conditions for exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge that promote tolerance and understanding between the peoples of the world.

Part of the SI Statutes should be amended.

Proposed new wording of the SI Statutes (new wording with bold text)

Principles: The **first** fundamental principle of Servas International is the belief in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of all human beings as a foundation for a more peaceful world.

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MTS

Will this proposal affect the SI statutes and therefore create a need for a change in the SI statutes?

Yes, See above.

6. Brief description of the reason for your proposal.

The motivation must contain a clear description of the benefit of this proposal for the Servas community; its member groups, individual members and Servas International as an international non-governmental organisation.

The current fundamental principle of Servas International ignores our ethical obligations towards caring for the Earth. The scientific consensus through reports such as The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is that the world is fast approaching the point where the ecological destruction by humans will lead to a world where human life will not survive except in very miserable circumstances. Considerable conflict will be inevitable.

This means that the issues of human rights need to be put into the context of a rapidly deteriorating ecology which will increasingly be unable to support human life. It means that we have a moral obligation to live so that everyone can live.

Actions such reducing carbon and ecological footprints must be part of any ethical strategy and any strategy to reduce the risk of conflict. In that regard, travel and air travel must be on the agenda together with other aspects of travelling and lodging.

Servas should continue the development of less resource consuming ways building cultural and friendship exchanges, other than face to face, that have evolved inside and outside the organization during recent years. This development of interpersonal meetings using internet based communication tools like Zoom, Skype, Teams et cetera has been accelerated during the covid-pandemic and should be further encouraged among Servas members.

One concrete example of such internet based activity is the Servas East Asia online meetings which were offered to Servas members worldwide. One of these meetings was about Mongolia Nomad Life on 30st of July 2022.

SIGA 2020 should approve this motion because (one or more motivations):

- It's important for Servas' credibility as a peace and hospitality organisation to embrace Human-Earth ethics, and that the organization spread information about both the negative and positive effects of Servas activities.

Servas members should be advocates of a life style that make us as human beings come more to peace with mother earth. By advocating ecological peace we will attract more new members.

- **The world is now in ecological overshoot. It is 1.7 times beyond the means of Earth to support human life. All human beings on earth must start reflecting on how our life style and choices of how to travel, consume energy and natural resources affects the environment.**

7. SI budget implications

No budget implications.

8. Other resources needed – time, experts with specialist competences or knowledge or other human resources.

The current SI Ethical Travel Team (SIETT) should be given a mandate to give concrete tips and support to Servas members who would like to know how to travel and host in the most environmentally friendly way.

SIETT should also encourage the development of more online meetings to spread cross cultural experiences and learning about different ways of living.

9. Proposed timeline/timetable for accomplishing the aims of the proposal?**The proposed action should ideally:**

- Start on this date: 2022–11–25/26.
- Be accomplished on this date: 2025.

If SI ETT gets a new mandate the group should report its results SI Exco on a yearly basis, not later than December 31.

10. Which person or persons writes/write this motion and is is/are responsible for the proposal?

Name/names & ServasOnline registration ID/IDs, Functions/titles in Servas:

:

Jonny Sågänger 14827, SI President and member of SI Exco

Robert Howell NZHowell103 Member of Servas New Zealand, SI Ethical Travels Team (SI ETT)

Contact information

Email address/addresses:

saganger.servas@gmail.com

rhowellnz@gmail.com

Mobile number/numbers:

Jonny: +46 706 202843 (Signal, WhatsApp)

Robert: +64 021 0812 2458

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11. Who or which group will be responsible for accomplishing the aim/aims of the proposal in this motion? (SI committee, SI Team, SI member group or Servas individual member/members.

Someone on the Servas International Executive (SI Exco) or someone co-opted by SI Exco should be charged with working with any Committee(s) or Team(s) that are established to further this work.

12. SI Exco comment on this motion

Date: 2022-MONTH-DAY Comment:

For Minute Taker Use Only:

13. Amendments (Passed or defeated)
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14. Final Motion (approved or defeated)
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