

**MOTION FOR
EXTRAORDINARY SERVAS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024
(EO-SIGA 2024)**

1. HEADING FOR THE PROPOSAL IN THIS MOTION (No more than 10 words)

Add an option in the Si Statutes to conduct a regular online SI General Assembly (O-SIGA)

2. DATE AND PLACE FOR THIS MOTION

2024-02-18

3. SI MEMBER GROUP(S) OR SI EXCO MEMBER(S) 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

RESPONSIBLE PERSONS: SI President R. Radhakrishna, SI MTS P. Nielsen & SI General Secretary J. Sägänger

4. EXACT WORDING OF THE MOTION TO BE VOTED ON

We propose that EO-SIGA-2024 approves the following:

SI Statutes (2022) be amended to insert the following new sentence between the second and third sentences of Clause (V)(2) of the Statutes:

SI Exco may call for an annual Online SI General Assembly (O-SIGA), to be held either in October or November each year instead of the regular SI DV held in November, or in April or May each year instead of the regular SI DV held in May.

Also, the words, "In such an event" in the last sentence be replaced with "*In all cases*".

After the proposed amendment, Clause (V) (2) shall be read as:

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. SI Exco may call for an annual Online SI General Assembly (O-SIGA) to be held either in October or November each year instead of the regular SI DV held in November or in April or May each year instead of the regular SI DV held in May. In all cases, at least three months' written notice, including agenda, time and place, must be given to each member group.

Please vote YES, NO or ABSTAIN on this motion.

5. IMPLICATIONS ON SI STATUTES (2022).

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

Yes. This proposal affects the SI Statutes (2022).

Proposed new wording in the [SI statutes \(2022\)](#) (new and modified text in **bold letters**):

/.../

V General Assembly

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.

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.

SI Exco may call for an annual Online SI General Assembly (O-SIGA) to be held either in October or November each year instead of the regular SI DV held in November or in April or May each year instead of the regular SI DV held in May.

In **all cases**, at least three months' written notice, including agenda, time and place, must be given to each member group.

/.../

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 organization.

EO-SIGA 2024 should approve this motion because:

The SI Member Groups should approve this motion because changes to statutes can be made only in Servas International General Assembly (SIGA) meetings. Between two SIGAs, changes to statutes can be made in an Extraordinary Online Servas International General Assembly (EO SIGA).

Currently, the SI Distant Vote regulation statutes and practice require that SI should have 2 distant votes - to be held each year in May and November. As a result of this proposal, there will be an amendment to the statutes to allow SI Exco the option of holding an Online Servas International General Assembly (O-SIGA) either during October/November each year or April/May each year in place of the November or May SI DV. The O-SIGA will be held in real time on zoom (or similar platform) and will allow all member groups to engage simultaneously in real time. An O-SIGA will have the status of a general assembly. Since it has the status of a general assembly, statute changes will be permissible in an Online Servas International General Assembly (O-SIGA).

Having an Online SI General Assembly (O-SIGA) each year will:

- Improve the quality of the decentralised process for SI Member Groups' democratic dialogue, discussions and decision making. It also gives the individual members in the SI Member Groups a better chance to participate in SI's democratic process through their national entity. It will lead to more engagement.
- Accelerate the decision-making process in SI.
- Help SI key persons to maintain contact with other SI key persons.
- Stimulate the growth of the SI key persons' network.
- Give an incentive to more Servas members to become active in SI volunteer work.

Statutory support for this motion

Is there a Servas International constitutional support for a *distant Extraordinary Online Servas International General Assembly (EO SIGA)*?

Yes, there's constitutional support for a EO SIGA. This is expressed in the SI Statutes (2022). Excerpt from SI Statutes (2022) – please note the sentence written with ***bold italics***:

/.../ IV General Assembly

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.

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.

/.../

7. SI BUDGET IMPLICATIONS.

Describe what financial resources are needed to accomplish the aims of this motion. Use the currency Swiss Francs (CHF), which is the currency used for SI's budget.

None. We will use existing infrastructure to conduct this meeting.

8. OTHER RESOURCES NEEDED.

E.g., Time, Experts with specialist competences or knowledge, or other human resources.

An SI Exco volunteer who can answer any queries from SI Member Groups.

9. PROPOSED TIMELINE/TIMETABLE FOR ACCOMPLISHING THE AIMS OF THIS PROPOSAL.

The proposed action should ideally be:

Decision in the EO SIGA May 2024.

Once approved, SI may conduct an online SI General Assembly meeting every November and/or May hereafter, in lieu of the SI Distant Vote.

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

Functions/titles in Servas

Contact information

Name/names:

Radha B. Radhakrishna, SI President (SI P), President@Servas.Org

Jonny Sågänger, SI General Secretary (SI GS), GeneralSecretary@servas.org

Paul Nielsen, SI Membership & Technology Secretary (SI MTS), mts@servas.org