



Conference theme: "Servas in Transition"

SICOGA 2015



Totara Springs
Aotearoa New Zealand

Timetable - Agenda - Subject Working groups (SWG) for SICOGA 2015

30th Servas International Conference and General Assembly
10-16 October 2015

Totara Springs Conference Centre, New Zealand

9.July.2015

**Dear National Secretaries of Servas Member Groups,
Dear Servas key persons,**

we're getting closer to Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA 2015) in New Zealand October 10 to 16 – our most important event during the mandate period 2012–2015.

I am – on behalf of SI Exco and the Agenda Working Group (AWG) – happy to present to you the SICOGA 2015 outline overall timetable, the business agenda for the SI General Assembly (SI GA) and information about the Subject Working Groups (SWG) that will be dealing with all the motions that have been prepared to be discussed and decided on during the upcoming meeting.

The outline timetable is the schedule of what happens when during the conference, including for example the SI GA sessions, SWG sessions and social activities.

The SI GA agenda contains the topics that will be discussed at the formal SI GA business sessions.

As required by the SI statutes, we included in the agenda all motions that were submitted by April 10, 2015, by a National Secretary or members of EXCO.

All of the motions have been grouped into five main subject areas. For each subject area, a Subject Working Group (SWG) has been set up, with one or more lead persons identified as convenor.

For your easy reference you may also find the outline timetable and other documents for SICOGA 2015 on the special website for the conference on Servas International's website servas.org. You find the SICOGA conference website here <http://servas.org/sicoga2015/index.php>

We look forward to working with you at the SICOGA 2015 and your contributions to the future of Servas!

Along with all the business items I'm sure we will all have an interesting, rewarding and enjoyable time together.

You will get to know many new people and some of them – I'm sure – will become our friends for the rest of our lives.

Jonny Sägänger
President
Servas International

president@servas.org

On behalf of:

* Servas New Zealand

* SICOGA 2015 Organizing Team sicoga2015@servas.org

* Ann Greenhough SI Vice President & SICOGA 2015 Conference Manager vicepresident@servas.org

* SI EXCO

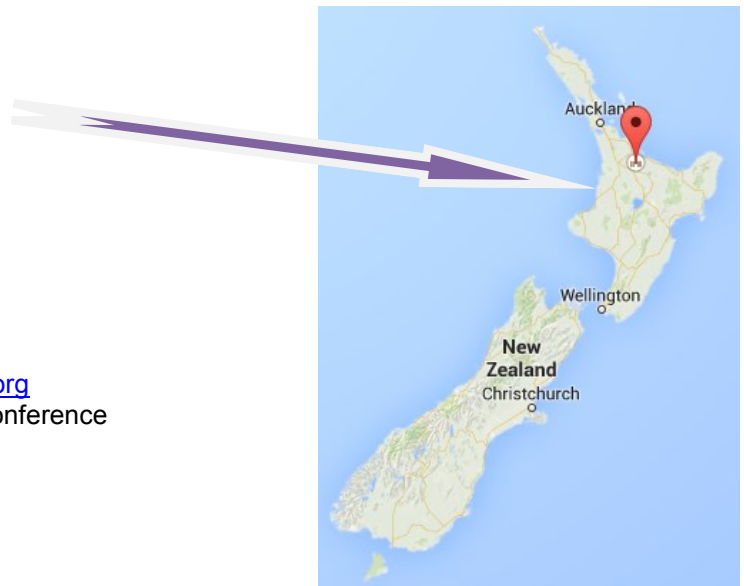
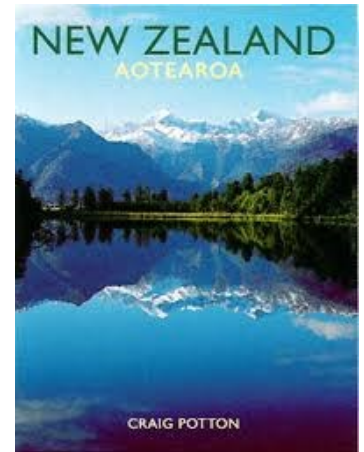


Table of content

1. **Timetable**
2. **Conference activities**
3. **Subject Working Groups (SWG)**
4. **SI GA Agenda & motions for SI GA 2015**
5. **SI Exco Status Report 2014**
6. **SICOGA 2015 background information**

1. Outline timetable

The timetable is the schedule of what happens when during the conference, including SI GA sessions, SWG sessions, education, workshops, unscheduled Topic Group discussions and social activities.

Saturday October 10

7.30: onwards buses to leave Auckland. Last bus leaving 9 AM at very latest.

Arrival, registration, welcome and lunch.

2.30: Opening of conference

3.00 SI President opening speech

6.00 Dinner (usual time is 5.30)

Sunday October 11

Subject Working Group sessions, SI GA business, workshops & country presentations

Monday October 12

Subject Working Group sessions, SI GA business, workshops & country presentations

Tuesday October 13

Excursion

Wednesday October 14

Subject Working Group sessions, SI GA business, workshops & country presentations

Thursday October 15

SI GA business, workshops

Friday October 16

1.00 SICOGA ends.

You find the outline timetable that will evolve for SICOGA 2015 on the conference website here:

<http://servas.org/sicoga2015/conference.php>

<http://servas.org/sicoga2015/conference-conference-information.php>

2. Conference activities

Four basic conference types of activities have been identified:

- SWG - Subject Working Group sessions to prepare for the Formal GA sessions
- SI GA – the formal business General Assembly sessions where country delegates vote and make decisions
- Workshops
- Topic Groups
- Excursion day (Tuesday October 13), evening and fun activities including country presentations, such as cultural activities like dance, singing et cetera.

Everybody is encouraged to bring cultural attributes from their own country and culture, make presentations, perform dances, singing – every contribution is appreciated and welcome!

There will of course be time for socializing and getting to know each other.

Any suggestion, creative idea and offer how to make the fun and informal part of the conference rich and enjoyable will be warmly welcomed by the organizing team via an email to the SICOGA Organizing team at

sicoga2015@servas.org

Please write this in the subject line: SICOGA 2015: social & fun activity

3. Subject Working Groups (SWG)

The motions submitted by a National Secretary or EXCO member by the deadline of April 10, 2015, were sorted into five subject areas. For each subject area, a Subject Working Group (SWG) has been set up, with one or more lead persons identified. The members of the SWG will be the people who proposed the motions, plus others who are interested in the subject area. Those who are interested in joining a SWG should contact the lead person or persons.

The SWGs will begin now to discuss the motions in their subject area. The discussions will take place in discussion forums on the world wide web/Internet. The lead persons will give instructions on how to join a discussion group. These discussions and this work before the meeting in New Zealand will be documented and taken to the SWG sessions at the SI GA. In some cases, the SWG will change the wording of the original motions, or combine motions together, with the agreement of those who proposed them.

The reason for SWGs is to carefully prepare the motions that are taken to the formal SI GA, so that they are clear and can be handled efficiently. We expect that discussion will mainly occur during the Subject Working Group sessions, not in the formal SI GA sessions.

Another advantage of SWGs beginning their work now, is that even if the Servas country that made the motion is not present at the GA, they have an opportunity to participate in the discussion of their motion and related motions in the same subject area.

The motions submitted by a National Secretary or EXCO member by April 10, 2015, were sorted into the following five subject areas (names of convenors of the SWG's and their email adresses in brackets signs):

- Peace (Danielle Serres peacesecretary@servas.org)
- Technology-Future (Penny Pattison & Jonny Sägänger president@servas.org)
- Travel/Hosts (Ann Greenhough vicepresident@servas.org & Arnoud Philippo hostlistcoordinator@servas.org)
- Finance (Mirek Wasilewski treasurer@servas.org)
- Modernization – of procedures (Pramod Kumar pramod.servas@gmail.com)

The SWG convenors can be contacted via email. Please find their contact information above and in the box below. The information in the box below will be found on this website <http://servas.org/sicoqa2015/general-assembly-motions.php>

	SICOQA-2015 as of July 9, 2015
	SUBJECT WORKING GROUP (SWG)
Motion	Technology-Future (convenors Penny Pattison & Jonny Sägänger president@servas.org)
ARG_URU-006	ServasOnline include standardized reports on Hosts and Travellers
AUS-002	"Non-Dolphin" groups to use Dolphin
BRA-001	Spanish as a working language of SI
EXC-002	Linking Servas with other likeminded organizations
EXC-003	Servas as a family-friendly organization
EXC-006	Registration of SI domicile
EXC-007	Getting the Servas archives in order
EXC-020	Rewrite SI Host List Coordinator Job Description
SWE-001	Actively work towards a rejuvenation of Servas
USA-003	Recognize, Encourage and Support SI Mentors
	Finance (convenor Mirek Wasilewski mirws@o2.pl)
EXC-018	Setting up an independent international Servas Youth fund through a charitable trust
EXC-021	Approve SI 2013 Financial accounts

EXC-022	Updates to Financial Operating Procedures
FRA-001	Reduce SI Stamp fee by 15% or more (CHF revaluation)
FRA-002	Pay stamps in Eurozone currency or US\$
GER-001	Simplifying the SI fee system
ITA-002	Eliminate paper stamps and revise stamp fee
USA-002	Accountability required for SI Funding to attend the GA
USA-005	SI FOP updated after and before each GA
	Peace (convenor Danielle Serres danielleerres@hotmail.com)
ARG_URU-002	Area Coordinator intervene in internal country conflicts
ARG_URU-003	Conflict Resolution Committee agile system
ARG_URU-004	Remove SI Officer if they do not comply with a CRC required action
CAN-002	Cooperate with Conflict Resolution Committee if complaints
CAN-003	Face-to-face mediation or translation for extreme conflicts
CAN-004	Code of Ethics and Behaviour
EXC-001	Long term strategy for SI UN involvement
KOR-001	Servas International Peace Riding & other small activities
	Travellers and Hosts / Regional Development (Ann Greenhough anngreenhough1@gmail.com & Arnoud Philippo arnoud.philippo@gmail.com)
ARG_URU-007	Redefine Guidelines and Mission of Area Coordinators
BRA-002	Procedures to issue LOIs for foreign travelers
CAN-001	Single night Servas stay
COS-002	Servas travelers remember aims of Servas
EXC-010	EXCO promoting a self-funding SI mid term meeting between SI conferences
EXC-012	Youth leadership Committee: number of members
EXC-013	Creating a strategy for regional development in Servas
EXC-014	Making connections: coordinating opportunities for in-depth and longer-stay experiences
EXC-015	Promoting special interest networks within Servas
EXC-016	Servas as an organisation committed to ethical and sustainable travel
EXC-017	Promoting cultural programmes within Servas including meetings with a theme
ITA-001	List of countries offering hospitality for Syle
	Modernization of procedures (Pramod Kumar pramod.servas@gmail.com)
ARG_URU-001	SI Candidates present themselves six weeks before the SI Elections
ARG_URU-005	Exco communicate with National Secretaries about tasks and answer questions
AUS-001	No time limit for elected SI officials
COS-001	Central America and Caribbean AC requirements
EXC-008	Approve record of elections and decisions at GA
EXC-009	Amend election rules - SI committees and officers
EXC-011	Update the structure and function of SI committees and SI officer roles
EXC-023	Recommendation to use new SI logo
POL-001	No restriction on eligibility for SI positions
USA-001	Servas Handbook and SI documents referenced in the Handbook
USA-004	SI Job Descriptions

A representative from the country that moved each motion will have to take part and be active in the SWG. All delegates must be in at least one SWG.

You may see motions in more than one subject group. The sorted list of motions, by SWG, is at the end of this document.

Everyone is encouraged to look at all motions. If there is one that the SWG believes should be included in their discussion, they are free to contact the country that moved it to see if they agree to add it to that SWG. Similarly, if a motion does not seem to fit, then it can be moved to another SWG if the country that moved it agrees.

Each motion is numbered by three letters of the country name followed by a number. The full motions, in English and – if translation resources have been available – in Spanish will be found under the headlines **About the conference – Pre Conference Information on this website** <http://servas.org/sicoga2015/conference-conference-information.php>

During the conference, there are assigned times for the SWGs to meet, all at the same time. This was necessary due to time limitations. The SWGs are also encouraged to arrange to meet at other free times during the week.

4. Agenda & motions for SI GA 2015

The business of the Servas International General Assembly (SI GA) in New Zealand October 11–16, 2015, will be handled according to the agenda below.

Note: These items have all been included in the accompanying Timetable.

1. GA Statutory Requirements

- a. GA Official Opening
- b. review and adopt the minutes of the last General Assembly as published or corrected
- c. review and vote on reports of Servas International's office holders
- d. membership decisions
- e. election of officers and committees
- f. review and vote on the audited accounts and the auditor's reports
- g. elect an auditor, or empower the Executive Committee to pay for independent professional auditing
- h. determine which members of the Executive Committee shall be empowered to sign on behalf of Servas International. Two signatures shall be required
- i. determine interval before next GA
- j. GA Official Closing

2. Peace (see details in following pages)

3. Technology-Future (see details in following pages)

4. Travel/Hosts (see details in following pages)

5. Finance (see details in following pages)

6. Modernization of procedures (see details in following pages)

Motions for Servas International General Assembly (SI GA) 2015

The information on pages 9–18 can also be found under the headline About the conference – Pre Conference Information on this website <http://servas.org/sicoga2015/conference-conference-information.php>

Motion Number	Motion Title	Motion Wording
ARG_URU-001	SI Candidates present themselves six weeks before the SI Elections	<p>Candidates applying to positions in SI must present their history of cooperation in Servas (antecedents) as members or in previous positions. This information plus the supporting document should be available to voting members at least 8 weeks in advance to the election for the position in GA.</p> <p>SI Candidates present themselves with their antecedents of collaboration in Servas as members or in previous positions, and a document signed by twelve members of the NG, current officers in the candidate's country and officers of the time the candidate had a National position, supporting the candidature and explaining reasons for such support.</p> <p>The antecedents should be presented openly to: the NG, current officers in the candidate's country and officers of the time <i>this candidate had a National position</i>.</p> <p>A document should be presented by the current officers including at least 10 members and previous officers in order to support the candidate, in the case the candidate had previously a National position.</p> <p>The document should present also disagreements with this candidature, which should be signed and supported by real knowledge of the inconveniences of this candidature.</p> <p>b) presented openly to NSs and other officers in the Region <i>in case the candidate was a AC</i> – approved and signed, and disagreements should be also presented, signed and supported.</p> <p>c) colleagues of the Committee, EXCO, or any other working group if the <i>candidate was integrating one of this International working groups</i>. – idem – approved, signed, disagreements presented and signed and supported.</p> <p>2) All the information sent must reach the NC 2 months in advance the CICOGA so that it can be published eight weeks before the SI Elections by the Nominations Committee among the AG voting members.</p> <p>3) There will be no last- minute candidatures.</p>
ARG_URU-002	Area Coordinator intervene in internal country conflicts	Area Coordinator should have the possibility to intervene in internal conflicts of the region's countries if the country's NS, officers or National Board require this intervention
ARG_URU-003	Conflict Resolution Committee agile system	There should be an agile system of the Conflict Resolution Committee to expulse a member who has repeated incorrect behaviour, or whose behaviour has severe consequences which damage the organization.
ARG_URU-004	Remove SI Officer if they do not comply with a Conflict Resolution Committee required action	When the CRC mediates between the parties on a conflict, sometimes, the CRC's decision implies that one of the parties must take certain action. In case this member or officer does not comply with CRC's decision, that is, if this member or officer does not do what is requested then he can be removed from the Servas position he/she is holding until he complies with it (or until the situation is resolved).
ARG_URU-005	Exco communicate with National Secretaries about tasks and answer questions	EXCO should maintain periodical communication with NSs about tasks being performed and answer NS' questions in due time
ARG_URU-006	ServasOnline include standardized reports on Hosts and Travellers, visible when arranging a visit	ServasOnline should include a report on the experiences of Hosts and Travellers with some degree of standardization. This qualification should be visible to both Hosts at the time they are required by travellers to open their doors and for Travellers at the time to choose Hosts.

Motion Number	Motion Title	Motion Wording
ARG_URU-007	Redefine Guidelines and Mission of Area Coordinators	Redefining Guidelines and Mission of Area Coordinator, including criteria and mission for Area Coordinators, and how they will operate
AUS-001	There should be no time limit for elected Servas International officials	We want to abandon the following motion, passed at the GA 2012: "Starting at the 2012 GA, a person cannot be nominated for an elected Servas International position if he/she has been in an elected or appointed Servas International position for a total of 6 or more years within the last 10 years. The clock starts at the 2012 GA."
AUS-002	non-Dolphin" member countries should be encouraged to transfer their data to Dolphin	About half of the SERVAS member countries maintain their host data in Dolphin. To facilitate the development of SOL (Servas Online) and the migration of the existing host data to the future SOL database, all member countries should be encouraged to use dolphin as their member database.
BRA-001	Include Spanish as a working language of Servas International	Include Spanish as a working language of Servas International
BRA-002	Establish procedures to issue Letter of Introduction (LOIs) for foreign travelers	<p>The issue of Letters of Introduction (LOIs) for foreign travelers in passing by another country has already been occurring for a while. However, specific procedures must be established officially to make sure this practice is done in accordance to Servas statutes.</p> <p>In this way, here are the suggested steps for issuing a LOI for a foreigner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traveler have to be interviewed by a local interviewer, fill out the letter of introduction and pay for a valid one-year stamp; • Traveler must not have any previous problems with Servas in her/his country of birth or residence. If he/she had belonged to Servas in the past and quit it for some reason, this info needs to be told to the interviewer; • In his/her LOI it must be informed the letter was issued "in transit" since he/she is not a current Servas member of that country; • The National Secretary and Host List Coordinator of traveler's country of birth or residence have to be informed as soon as traveler has been interviewed and a copy of his/her LOI sent to them; • The interviewer commits to provide all necessary info about Servas procedures for the traveler; • It is desirable that the traveler can meet an interviewer in his/her country of birth or residence once he/she is back in order to create a bond between him/her and Servas; • Every time this "in-transit issued LOI" is used again, during its valid period, the traveler should inform both his/her interviewer and the person-in-charge in his/her country of birth or residence. • By the end of the validity of his/her "in-transit issued LOI", the person can renovate it ONLY in his/her country of birth or residence.
CAN-001	Single night Servas stay option	Servas Canada moves that a single night Servas stay be recognized as a quality Servas International visit option, as long as hosts and travelers take time for meaningful interactions. This would be an additional option, along with the established two-night visit and the day host visit.
CAN-002	Servas officers work cooperatively with Conflict Resolution Committee when a complaint is filed	That all Servas officers are required to work cooperatively with the Servas International Conflict Resolution Committee (SI CRC), when a complaint has been filed. CRC must make every effort to help resolve an issue but in case there is no final agreement, CRC has the final authority while respecting Servas principles and rules; this decision must be binding and officially adopted by the sides involved.

Motion Number	Motion Title	Motion Wording
CAN-003	Face-to-face mediation or translation for extreme conflicts	That a budget of 1,500 CHF be allocated over a three year period to cover costs for an extreme situation where a conflict can only be resolved through face-to-face mediation or when translation is needed
CAN-004	Code of Ethics and Behaviour	That Servas International develops a Code of Ethics and Behaviour that will be binding on all Servas members including officers. The SI CRC agrees to work with the Servas International Peace Secretary and other interested parties to develop a draft to be voted on by the General Assembly or through a Distant Vote
COS-001	Central America and Caribbean Area Coordinator requirements	After the current 3 years period for the CARIBBEAN and CENTRALAMERICAN Coordination will reach to an end, Servas Costa Rica request that a person which will be identified with the AREA will be appointed. This person should hold meetings with members of the countries within the AREA. This person should inspire the REGION to make its membership to growth in Nicaragua and to start a Group in El Salvador. Up to now there were no works at all to motivate the groups within the AREA.
COS-002	People travelling with Servas should remember the aims of Servas	The reason for Servas is to let people know the culture of countries and to foster peace around the world. Persons visiting us should have in mind the mission of Servas and follow every rule according the guidelines. They should foster the aims of Servas.
EXC-001	Long term strategy for Servas International UN involvement	SI will encourage Servas national groups and members to actively participate in learning about the UN goals and take local actions. To achieve this, it is moved that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Servas committee of 4-5 people, ideally representing NYC, Geneva, and Vienna UN venues be established. • This UN committee will be proposed by SI Peace Secretary, appointed by SI EXCO, and report to the SI Peace Secretary who will be the convener. • The UN committee will disseminate information about SDG (write out what SDG is the first time – I don't know!) goals and select specific SDG goals for discussion and develop possible local actions during the calendar year for Servas members. • The UN committee will also make recommendations for Servas members participation in local actions with other UN affiliated NGOs and community members, on the occasion of UN International Days. The UN committee will encourage the promotion of UN objectives through Servas members, who could be “ambassadors for peace”, reporting on human rights issues they could experience and/or witness, and also about positive developments. Servas hosts locally could provide useful information. A template would be established to secure best possible correctness in the reporting, and those reports collected by National Peace Secretaries, who would report to SI Peace Secretary as convener of the committee. Ultimately, reports would be submitted to the UN relevant entities, as a contribution to UN work and mission.
EXC-002	Linking Servas with other likeminded organizations	Servas International should increase its efforts to cooperate with like-minded organizations that share complementary missions
EXC-003	Servas as a family-friendly organization	As a priority the GA supports the promotion of Servas as a family-friendly organisation. Exco is encouraged to create a special interest group for those willing to develop ideas and initiate activities for Servas families worldwide. The aim would be develop an action plan for Families in Servas.
EXC-004	<i>Merged with EXC-003</i>	
EXC-005	<i>Withdrawn</i>	
Motion Number	Motion Title	Motion Wording
EXC-006	Registration of SI domicile	To register Servas International (SI) in order to obtain a document that proves that SI is a recognized non governmental international organisation (NGO) with a domicile.
EXC-007	Getting the Servas	One of the first tasks of the new Archivist would be to design an index to the

	archives in order.	contents of approximately 80 SI archival boxes at the Hoover Institution in California, USA, and post the index on the SI website for researchers to use. This way researchers can know what is in the holdings. It also would be helpful if the Archivist could get permission to organize the documents and files. The researcher would still have to come to Palo Alto, California, on the campus of Stanford University, to look at the materials. There is no money in the Hoover Institution budget to digitize the materials so that they could be read on-line.
EXC-008	Approve record of elections and decisions at GA	As part of the General Assembly (GA) process, a record of the results of elections and the decisions made at the GA, be submitted for approval before the end of the GA
EXC-009	Amend election rules - SI committees and officers	To replace 2012 GA decision 5 (made on 25.8.12) <i>Starting at the 2012 GA, a person cannot be nominated for an elected Servas International position if he/she has been in an elected or appointed Servas International position for a total of 6 or more years within the last 10 years. The clock starts at the 2012 GA.</i> Starting from the 2018 GA a person cannot be nominated for an elected Servas International position if they have already served two terms (six years) in that post within the last 10 years.
EXC-010	EXCO promoting a self-funding SI mid term meeting between SI conferences	In light of the benefits seen from the 2014 SI meeting held in Britain, SI Exco is encouraged to promote interest in a similar international meeting mid-way to the next SI conference and GA in 2018. This would be with a view to it being a self-funding event and focused on a specific theme relevant to Servas development. If possible it should be located in a different region to Europe to give members elsewhere the opportunity to participate. Consideration should be given to coordinating any such an event with other planned face to face meetings for key SI tasks. For example those involving Exco, audit, nominations and development committees or alternatively for it to be combined with a youth or regional meeting. Such a meeting midway between SI conferences would not have any decision-making powers. However it would give chance for an informal review of progress on 2015 GA decisions and encourage cooperation on future work before the 2018 GA.
EXC-011	Update the structure and function of SI committees and SI officer roles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. In the period 2015-18 SI Exco will coordinate a review by each SI committee and each SI officer role of its structure, purpose, functions and name, taking into account the impact of changes that result from Servas going online. ii. With the help of the Job Descriptions and Statutes Committee Exco will ensure that the outcomes of the work of each committee and SI officer is brought together in an overview of the current SI structure together with any proposed changes. iii. This will be made available to all national groups and SI committees for consultation. iv. Following this consultation a proposal will be put forward at the 2018 GA for an updated structure for Servas International. It should be fit for purpose and aim to promote Servas as a modern, forward-thinking organisation whilst also reflecting its core values as a peace organisation. v. In carrying out this review particular consideration should be given to the sustainability of the current structure including whether committees and SI roles should be joined together, disbanded or new committees and roles created. vi. To inform the decision-making, Exco is encouraged to consider putting in place, on a trial basis ahead of the 2018 GA, any new ways of working that do not require a change in the statutes.

Motion Number	Motion Title	Motion Wording
EXC-012	Youth leadership Committee: number of members	<p>The number of members elected to the Youth Leadership Committee will be reduced from five to three for the 2015 elections.</p> <p>This committee will then have responsibility for creating and managing a Servas Youth team with an undefined number of appointed members.</p> <p>As far as possible this team should be representative of all Servas regions and youth and family projects including SYLE.</p> <p>The purpose of this team will be to support the work of the youth leadership committee in promoting and organising Servas youth and family activities and projects worldwide.</p>
EXC-013	Creating a strategy for regional development in Servas	<p>The GA encourages the creation of a strategy for development in Servas through activity at a local and regional level.</p> <p>In order to achieve this aim, SI Exco should ensure that national groups and those in key SI roles (including the area coordinator if in post) cooperate in focusing on how Servas can be both sustained and developed in each region. It is envisaged that the Development Committee and Youth Team will play key roles in encouraging initiatives that will promote Servas membership across all age groups and backgrounds.</p> <p>There should be particular emphasis on addressing the circumstances encountered in some regions such as Africa and Central America where it has been difficult to maintain membership of some national groups at a viable level.</p> <p>In the course of developing these regional strategies the opportunity should be taken to evaluate the functions of the area coordinator role alongside the alternative ways in which some regions have pursued regional cooperation and activities among national groups. This is with a view to determining the best way of providing leadership, support and innovation within Servas regions in the future.</p> <p>SI Exco should ensure the results of work on a strategy for regional development are formulated into firm proposals for action that should be presented to the 2018 GA.</p>

Motion Number	Motion Title	Motion Wording
EXC-014	Making connections: coordinating opportunities for in-depth and longer-stay experiences	<p>The GA approves the promotion of opportunities for in-depth and longer-stay experiences alongside the more usual encounters between hosts and travellers during a two night stay.</p> <p>Such opportunities will be coordinated on the new SI website under one 'umbrella', a resource to be known as Making Connections.</p> <p>Information will be posted on the Making Connections page, creating links and bringing together interested travellers with those hosts who can offer a variety of opportunities for extended stays or more in-depth visits.</p> <p>Volunteering, work experience, language learning, sharing skills and knowledge and connecting with local peace organisations are examples of potential activities that could be arranged in this way.</p> <p>The aim is to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences between a traveller and their host family and community with the emphasis on informal local networks known personally to the host.</p> <p>Guidelines for the project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As well as information from individual hosts and travellers being posted the Making Connections page will also link to websites of countries where specific in-depth or longer stay opportunities are listed. 2. The idea of language learning with a purpose will be encouraged for all ages ideally through a specific activity, for example, a traveller exploring a special interest, acquiring new skills or volunteering. 3. Given the particular needs of young people, SYLE will continue to be about language learning for those under 30 although it will be possible to publicise the scheme under the Making Connections umbrella as well as it being part of youth activities. 4. Members of all ages will be able to take up the opportunities offered through the resource unless there is a specific reason to restrict to one age group. 5. Local groups of hosts will be able to connect with similar groups elsewhere with a view to exchange visits. 6. National groups will be encouraged to identify a lead person to promote opportunities in their country and to be a link to SI resources and information. 7. When going beyond a two nights stay, advanced planning for visits will be essential as it is likely to involve hosts making specific arrangements. As with SYLE, both host and traveller should make sure there is a clear understanding about expectations for the visit. 8. Those managing the resource will develop guidelines for hosts and travellers planning such extended visits. 9. Individual host entries online will in the future be able to give travellers more detailed information about a host's interests and community than has been possible in printed host lists. This could include links to websites of local organisations or projects known to the host. <p>The proposed special interest networks could be developed alongside this project with the possibility of sharing the same page on the SI website or being linked to it.</p>

Motion Number	Motion Title	Motion Wording
EXC-015	Promoting special interest networks within Servas	<p>The GA supports the promotion of special interest networks within Servas, making use of the new SI website to develop them in a more structured way than has previously been possible.</p> <p>Linking people with shared interests has the potential to enhance both individual and group experiences in Servas.</p> <p>Families in Servas will have a dedicated webpage on the SI website to promote Servas as a family friendly organisation and to encourage connections between families both as hosts and travellers.</p> <p>Likewise a Servas Youth webpage will replace the previous Servas Youth website.</p> <p>Other areas of interest will be promoted either through a separate webpage to be known as Special Interest Networks, or via the proposed Making Connections page.</p> <p>The Servas Environment Network will be encouraged as an first example on which to base future special interest networks, linking in with the proposed Making Connections project and working group. The potential use of new SI website will be explored to develop the most effective way of connecting Servas members with shared interests</p>
EXC-016	Servas as an organisation committed to ethical and sustainable travel	<p>The GA approves Servas promoting ethical travel, concern for the environment and human rights as part of its philosophy as a global peace organisation. This would be expressed on the SI website through the statement: 'Travel peacefully and walk lightly on the earth'.</p> <p>As Servas members we should be aware of the social and environmental impact of our travels.</p> <p>We should respect and protect the vulnerable communities and fragile environments that we visit as an essential elements of peaceful travel.</p> <p>A special interest network will work in conjunction with the proposed environment network to raise awareness within Servas about issues concerning ethical travel. It will also seek to make links with organisations both local and global involved in sustainable tourism.</p>
EXC-017	Promoting cultural programmes within Servas including meetings with a theme	<p>The GA supports the development of guidance for anyone interested in hosting international Servas meetings including those focused on a particular theme. This to be in the form of a 'toolkit' of practical ideas and advice on all aspects of planning such an event.</p> <p>A working group is to be created to put together this guidance and to gather and collate information and feedback about meetings in the future.</p> <p>These resources to be made available via the SI website.</p>
EXC-018	Setting up an independent international Servas Youth fund through a charitable trust	<p>The GA supports the initiative to set up an independent international Servas youth fund based in Britain as a charitable trust. Its aim will be to widen access to young people from around the world so they can take part in Servas activities.</p> <p>This is to replace the temporary fund currently managed by Servas Britain which was supported by the 2009 GA. Donations will be sought from individual members (including bequests), national groups and outside organisations.</p> <p>As in 2015, decisions about the allocation of grants to young people will be made by an international panel of members who are representative of regions across Servas. The trustees of the charitable trust fund in Britain will be Servas members although it will be financially managed independently of Servas Britain.</p>
EXC-019	<i>Withdrawn</i>	
EXC-020	Rewrite SI Host List Coordinator Job Description	Rewrite SI Host List Coordinator Job Description

Motion Number	Motion Title	Motion Wording
EXC-021	Approve SI 2013 Financial accounts	Approval of the financial accounts of Servas International for 2013 as presented by the Treasurer and audited by internal and external audit 1. Member Organizations of Servas International approve the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account of Servas International for 2013 as presented by the Treasurer and Executive Committee of Servas International. 2. Member Organizations of Servas International approve reports of Internal Audit Committee on the financial accounts of Servas International for 2013 and the Auditor's Report for 2013 presented by the external auditors' firm Vasudev Pai & Co. 3. All the above named documents are attached to this motion.
EXC-022	Updates to Financial Operating Procedures	Approval of the updates to the Financial Operating Procedures as proposed by the SI Audit Committee
EXC-023	Recommendation to use new SI logo	That Servas national groups around the world use the new SI logo
EXC-024	Procedural motion	The Statutes of Servas International adopted at the 2012 General Assembly and as amended at this General Assembly, October 2015, be adopted as the Statutes of Servas International replacing all previous versions
EXC-025	Procedural motion	The recommendations of the Membership Committee regarding giving member status to some national groups and canceling the member status of some member groups, be accepted.
EXC-026	Procedural motion	The Minutes of SI GA 2012 be accepted.
EXC-027	Procedural motion	The reports of EXCO members and other SI officers be accepted.
EXC-028	Procedural motion	Approve the SI Budget for the next three years.
EXC-029	Procedural motion	Authorise EXCO to pay for an external auditor for auditing of SI accounts.
EXC-030	Procedural motion	Decide which members of EXCO shall be empowered to sign on behalf of SI.
EXC-031	Procedural motion	The year in which the next GA will be held be decided.
FRA-001	Reduce SI Stamp fee by 15% or more (CHF revaluation)	This Assembly calls upon SERVAS INTERNATIONAL to reduce the stamp fee by an average of 15% to: 0 to 10 stamps..... 0 CHF 11 to 50 stamps..... 10 CHF 51 to 300 stamps..... 15 CHF 301 to 550 stamps..... 18 CHF 551 to 900 stamps..... 20 CHF
FRA-002	Pay stamps in Eurozone currency or US\$	This Assembly calls upon SERVAS INTERNATIONAL to enable its members to pay for their Travellers stamps in either CHF, Euros or in US dollars
GER-001	Simplifying the SI fee system	We suggest that SI/Exco propose a fee system different to the current system which is based on the number of Lols. A single fee to simplify the current system which is based on the number of LOI's.

Motion Number	Motion Title	Motion Wording
ITA-001	List of countries offering hospitality for Syle	<p>The national groups that are available to organise one or more Syle projects must communicate this fact before December 20th and June 20th of each year. The national groups of young members who are interested in participating in the Syle program must communicate this fact and the countries where the young people would like to go. This communication must be made to the International Youth Group which then prepares, within 20 days after the deadline, a list of countries that are available to organise one or more projects and a list countries requested by the young people . These lists must be immediately presented to the Executive Committees of the various countries so that the young people interested in the Syle projects can know which countries are available and the various countries can know if they are requested. The lists must also appear on the Servas International website and may be published on the websites of the various countries.</p>
ITA-002	Eliminate paper stamps and revise stamp fee	<p>We propose the elimination of the paper stamp. When a new or renewed subscription happens, the right to travel will be automatically acquired by paying a quota for the LOI also (this cost will be notably less than what is currently paid, given that every member will pay it). In order to ensure that Servas International still gets the money that it currently acquires through paper stamps, each national group will be obliged to contribute annually to the SI budget in an amount that corresponds more or less to that which is now being paid annually for the paper stamps.</p> <p>Briefly, Servas International, from its budget adopted by the General Assembly (budget submitted, before G.A, to the national groups) and from the total number of its registered members, can calculate the cost per member just dividing the total costs budgeted by the total registered number of its members. Each country pays in proportion to their own number of registered members. Servas International could also set up various different range of prices depending on the average income of the nations or continents.</p> <p>We suggest that a database be created with a password for Servas members, such that each member can find the lists and so that potential hosts can verify that those requesting hospitality are properly inscribed.</p> <p>For each Country, the National Secretary, or his or her delegate, should check the regularity of their member, enter the data into the database and keep it updated or remove access in the event of irregularities or cancellation.</p> <p>Optionally, we also propose that before leaving home each traveller must in any event fill out a LOI, to be attached to the request for hospitality, and a copy of the LOI must be sent to the member's administrators.</p>
KOR-001	Servas International Peace Riding & other small activities	<p>Organizing bicycle riding group in Servas International and arranging bicycle tour during Servas International Conference and General Assembly and Servas Youth meeting.</p> <p>Also arranging international bicycle riding tour to Servas member's countries with Servas flag.</p>

Motion Number	Motion Title	Motion Wording
POL-001	No restriction on eligibility for SI positions	To cancel the restriction on eligibility for Servas International positions as imposed by 2012 GA, decision taken on 25th August, number 5: "Starting at the 2012 GA, a person cannot be nominated for an elected Servas International position if he/she has been in an elected or appointed Servas International position for a total of 6 or more years within the last 10 years. The clock starts at the 2012 GA."
SWE-001	Actively work towards a rejuvenation of Servas	Servas International and the Servas National Groups shall actively work towards a rejuvenation of Servas. We propose that SICOGA 2015 nominates a workgroup of at least five people who will have the task of promoting the rejuvenation of Servas.
USA-001	Servas Handbook and SI documents referenced in the Handbook	Approve and widely distribute recently up dated Servas Handbook and approve all SI documents referenced in the handbook as being current, clear and accurate.
USA-002	Accountability required for SI Funding to attend the GA	Update/revise/complete as necessary, and Approve all Job descriptions and provide a format for annual reports which document activities, <u>accomplishments</u> (wording from SI FOP) and recommendations related to job description's roles and responsibilities to help determine if GA funding warranted.
USA-003	Recognize, Encourage and Support SI Mentors	Recognize the use of SI Mentors as teachers to help strengthen Servas
USA-004	SI Job Descriptions	Update of SI Job Descriptions to give a truer picture of specific responsibilities, expected outcomes required in the job in order that an annual report of activities and most importantly accomplishments and recommendations can be presented to SI
USA-005	SI FOP updated after and before each GA	SI Financial Operating Procedures shall be updated after each GA and before the next GA Add this requirement to the SI Statutes

5. SI Exco Status Report, with financial report

The reports for 2014 from SI Exco, committees and officers, including financial report from 2013, can be found on this website: <http://servas.org/sicoga2015/conference-conference-information.php>
The report's first page looks like this.

| Status Report
Servas
International
(SI)
January 2014
—
December 2014
www.servas.org



6. SICOGA 2015 background information

The 30th Servas International Conference and General Assembly (GA), known as SICOGA 2015, is a joint venture organized by Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco) and Servas New Zealand with the support of the SICOGA 2015 Organising Team (SICOGA OT).

The conference will be held from 10th to 16th October 2015.

We shall be very happy to have you with us, sharing an enjoyable and challenging week of Servas work, together with social activities and the chance to meet old friends and new from around the world.

Our theme for the meeting will be "Servas in Transition". As the title suggests it will be an important event for the development of Servas International as a peace and hospitality organization.

Those who have been part of previous conferences will know what an unforgettable experience it can be to be part of such an international event where people from so many nationalities, languages and cultures come together from across the world.

The venue will be the Totara Springs Conference Centre near Malamata, about 120 Km from Auckland. More information about the venue can be found at www.totarasprings.org.nz/



The SI Conference program

The Conference of Servas International is generally held every three years.

As part of the conference there will be a General Assembly (GA) of National Servas Member Groups. During the GA sessions voting delegates will make important decisions about the running and financing of the organization as well as planning for the future. SI officers and committees will also be elected for the coming three years.

Everyone attending the conference will be able to observe these sessions but only one delegate per National Servas Member Group will be able speak and vote.

There will also be workshops, discussion groups and training sessions on a wide range of topics where all the conference participants will be able to contribute to the debate about Servas in the future.

In addition to the GA sessions there will be a social program for all the conference participants and chance to enjoy activities in the countryside surrounding the centre.

If you have questions, please contact the SICOGA2015 Organizing Team (OT) at sicoga2015@servas.org , with your full name and country.

One again - welcome to SICOGA 2015!