

EXC-001 Motion for SI GA 2015

Subject Working Group: Peace

Long term strategy for Servas International UN involvement

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Summary of the motion:

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

- 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 Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) 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.

Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.

Expand active role of Servas International as an NGO in the UN environment.

The UN was formed in 1945 to maintain international peace and security and today represents 193 nation states; its goals embody basic human rights to health, education, shelter and security. The post-2015 UN Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) pertain to poverty, hunger, education, gender equality, energy, urban settlements, climate change, peace and sustainable development.

Servas International as an NGO enjoys the privilege of consultative status with ECOSOC. This privilege is also an asset. As a peace organization in 130 countries, Servas has a unique opportunity to give input to the UN and advocate UN decisions on many aspects of peace.

Likely benefits for Servas International and national groups if the motion is passed.

Servas will become known as a peacemaker organization in every community. Youth will become excited to join to “give peace a chance”.

Resource implications if the motion is passed in terms of time, human resources and specialist expertise.

Volunteer effort required: all Servas members, guided by the UN Committee.

What are the budget implications, if any, of the motion for Servas International in the short and longer term?

2000 CHF per year for basic UN committee budget ; funds can be used to support internships as needed, travel expenses, events, publications, etc.

What are the budget implications, if any, of the motion for national groups, in the short and longer term?

I have not been able to identify any. But maybe the national member groups need to make some kind of investment into this project.

Identify who should be responsible for the actions arising from the motion in terms of planning, development and management, for example which officer within SI Exco or SI Committee.

SI Peace Secretary as leader and monitor of the project.

Would there be any implications for the Servas International statutes if the motion is passed?

No.

What is the likely impact if the motion is not passed?

Servas International loses opportunity of making a real difference.