

Status Report

Servas

International

(SI)

August 2012

—

December 2013

www.servas.org



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Reinforcing the Servas foundation

Dear Servas friends around the world,

you belong to a global non-profit organization with a long tradition of promoting a more peaceful world by using hospitality exchange at its core.

When Michael Scott from Denver, Colorado, in the United States discovered Servas he became so happy that he wrote this on his twitter account @biz_michael on February 1st this year:

It was great to discover [@USServas](#) through a friend today. What a great resource for travelers who are connected to a cause. [#Servas](#)

Our movement was started in 1949 under the name Peace Builders. As the movement grew it evolved into the Open Door network. It later got the name Servas, which is esperanto for "we serve". This was most probably the first official hospitality program of its kind. Bob Lutweiler and the other founders aimed at building the foundations of justice that can lead to a peaceful world.

Servas main focus is still to give a contribution for a more peaceful world.

We work for our cause both on an individual level and collectively as an organization.

The Servas movement engages in building international understanding by establishing personal contacts through travels, visiting and hosting.

Opening up your home to a person or a family that you don't know, is a bold, as well, as brave action that promotes the idea of peaceful communication and other aspects of friendly coexistence between human beings. Staying and socialising in somebody else's home is also taking one step towards a more peaceful world.

Our cause is also pursued by national member groups and individual members who run projects that for example can be aimed at increasing peaceful living conditions.

Let me also stress that Servas has a representation in United Nations, the most accepted and strongest peace organization in the world. Servas International, SI, has representatives present at the United Nations sites in Geneva in Switzerland, New York City in United States and in Vienna in Austria. SI as a non-governmental organization is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, since 1973.

A challenging period for Servas

It's no secret that Servas is going through one of the most challenging periods in the history of the organization. One reason, possibly the most important, is that Servas has been too cautious about taking advantage of the inherent potential in Internet based information and communication tools to facilitate for our members travels, hosting, networking and peace activities. Members have left Servas – or decided not to join – because they perceive the organization as being too old fashioned and not responsive enough to the current demands of the convenience offered by fast, reliable and efficient tools for digital communication via Internet.

The good news is that many of the technical and infrastructural deficiencies of Servas is about to be eliminated. Servas members around the world will in due time be able to communicate and interact via their

computers on a new website which is being developed on a new Internet based platform in the project ServasOnline, SOL.

SI Exco's goal is to deliver SOL to the members before or – at the latest – at the next general assembly, SIGA2015, in October in New Zealand.

Another major challenge is that today there are well over thirty other groups operating around the world with a focus on "hospitality exchange". The vast majority of these have sprung up in the last 10–15 years. Most of these organisations or networks are based on a single, centralized and global model for storing their individual members' personally identifiable information and providing controlled access to their information repositories.

It can also be argued that Servas, as a federation of national member groups, has been at a significant disadvantage compared to other groups with similar hospitality programs. With SOL put in operational mode this disadvantage will also be eliminated.

In this status report you can read about some of the work that has been done during the period August 2012-December 2013 by SI Exco, other committees and officers who dedicate time and energy as volunteer to maintain and develop Servas as an organisation fit for the challenges of the contemporary world.

According to the SI statutes all Servas International officers must, as a minimum, submit an annual activity and financial report to the President of Servas International or the General Secretary, to be forwarded to all National Secretaries. You will receive your personal copy of a compilation of the activity reports for 2012 from Servas member groups and Servas countries if you send a request to president@servas.org.

The main scope of this report is the period August 2012-December 2013, but events of special importance during the period 1st of January to end of May 2014 are also included.

In peace

Jonny Sågänger

President Servas International



The current Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco) was elected at the SI General Assembly in Poland in August 2012, SIGA2012.

Since SI Exco was elected by the delegates at SIGA2012 our efforts are focused on fulfilling the decisions that were made by this assembly. SIGA is the highest democratic authority in our federative, country based organization.

It's also Exco's responsibility to interpret which decisions SIGA collectively has decided are most important for the maintenance and development of Servas as a movement and Servas International as an organization. In order to act responsibly Exco must prioritize and not try to do everything. If we would go down that road, we would just try to do everything and achieve nothing.

EXCO has a responsibility as Servas' international board to be both visionary and realistic.

During its first and constituent meeting the new board agreed that the following SIGA decisions would have the highest priority during our mandate period:

- Fulfill and prioritize the decisions from SIGA2012.
- Modernize Servas International web site www.servas.org.
- A future plan to strengthen Servas' identity, vision and mission.
- Register Servas International as an international NGO

Modernization of [servas.org](http://www.servas.org)

The work for the creation of a redesigned and modernized Servas web site on www.servas.org started during SIGA2012, as soon as the new Exco was elected. Exco took over a project with the working name ServasOnline, SOL.

A group named ServasOnline Working Group, SOLWG, was formed in order to create a solid foundation for the continuation of the project. However, the SOLWG project group experienced problems in accomplishing the tasks needed to move the project ahead. A new project leader and additional group members were appointed by Exco on the 23rd of February 2013. During the summer the same year of 2013 two new members joined the new group ServasOnline Steering Committee Management Team, SOL SCMT, and that was the start for major developments in the project.

SOL SCMT created an overall plan for a public bidding and procurement process to attract proposals from professional web development teams. 13 companies showed interest with proposals that were evaluated by SOL SCMT.

One or more contracts will be signed between SI Exco and the company or companies that SOL SCMT and SI Exco single out as the best supplier/suppliers.

The SIGA2015 is Exco's formal deadline to have completed the high priority SOL project. EXCO is convinced that the new website actually needs to be finished sooner, in order to prevent loss of existing members and to keep recruitment of new members on an acceptable level.

The website on the Internet domain servas.org consists currently (May 2014) of a list of Servas member groups/countries websites. It's an intermediate solution until SOL will be implemented.

While waiting for a modernized website on the domain servas.org the organization has increased its digital visual and vocal presence on the Internet significantly during this reporting period. The tool for this has been social media, like Facebook and Twitter.

SI officers are now administrating one official Facebook page for Servas International. Here news, stories and information on the activities of Servas around the world are published www.facebook.com/Servas.International

In addition there are two Servas International Facebook groups.

The open SERVAS Facebook group is for people who are interested in Servas International including travelers and hosts, members and potential members of Servas in their country.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/servas/>

This closed Facebook Group SERVAS INTERNATIONAL is for people who are a member of a national SERVAS-group. You find the group here: www.facebook.com/groups/117649068294944/

There are several twitter accounts under the name Servas and that have been started by individual members in different countries. Not all accounts are being updated.

The official Servas International twitter website you find here: <https://twitter.com/ServasI>

The page is being maintained by Tim Phillips, regional Servas coordinator of Servas UK.

The Servas President twitter page you find here: <https://twitter.com/Servaspresident>

This web page is maintained by me as president of Servas International.

Strengthen Servas' identity

In order to fulfill the SIGA2012 decision on the "Future of Servas" EXCO has followed up and continued historic and new initiatives to determine a common understanding of current beliefs regarding Servas' vision and mission.

EXCO's conclusion is that Servas' vision and identity needs to be clarified and strengthened. A cornerstone in this project is to outline a Servas identity that is better defined than the one we have today. We're aiming at keeping what is good in today's image of Servas, and what is well functioning. But we're determined to modernise the internal and external image of Servas, the actions and the old fashioned ways of working.

During a face-to-face meeting in Great Britain in September 2013 EXCO decided to adopt the following draft slogan, core values and mission, based on a variety of available Servas sources:

Proposed SI slogan: Open doors – building peace and understanding across cultures.

Proposed Core Values: Trust, Tolerance, Open Mindedness, Respect.

Proposed Mission: Servas promotes trust, tolerance, open-mindedness and respect, so that people can live in peaceful coexistence. Our members value understanding of different cultures, gender equality and diversity in ethnicity, ideology, sexuality and nationality.

In times of increased movement of people and globalisation, there is a growing need to promote understanding across borders and cultures.

Hospitality and cultural interaction are the essential tools for achieving conditions for people to live in peace // unity // concordance.

The slogan has after referral to individual Servas members been amended, since SI run the risk of being mixed up with other organisations when using the term "Open Doors".

The discussion about combined draft text for slogan and for a SI logotype/brand is ongoing.

EXCO is instrumental in an ongoing discussion with the aim to find a common understanding of a diversified and sophisticated Servas definition of the term "peace". When this goal is reached Servas will have an important pillar in our efforts to give Servas a more stringent identity.

During a face-to-face meeting in March 2014 EXCO took a decision to choose a logo to promote the SI brand. This is an important step in our strategy to strengthen Servas's identity. As of today there's a myriad of different Servas logos/brands around the world. This is an impediment to the needed increase of global public knowledge about the Servas brand. The lack of brand knowledge blocks the growth of the organisation.



The proposed new SI logo.

EXCO hasn't been able to fulfill the SIGA2012 decision to establish a Servas Planning Group, SPG, that would have the mission to, among other things, gather information regarding current common practices from Servas national groups and to lay a foundation for a broad discussion about what Servas should be in 5 to 10 years from now. Thanks to an initiative from EXCO a SPG group was formed during SIGA2012, but the group hasn't – so far – become formalized and seems to be desintegrated.

But even if the SPG group hasn't been formed work is ongoing on the Future Project. Servas Sweden has had a workshop where the strengths and weaknesses of Servas were discussed. An international event in Great Britain in June 2014 – Where next for Servas? – focuses on the issues that came up in the debate about two motions to SIGA2012 from Canada and Sweden.

REGISTRATION OF SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

SI would benefit from more firm knowledge about its legal status and domicile in its country of residence, namely Canton of Zurich in Switzerland, as well as SI's status as an international NGO.

Servas member groups need to be able to prove that they are part of a recognized international NGO to be able to register in their own countries and run activities.

A clarification about the registration status would also support reporting requirements for taxes and other financial and administrative matters.

Registration status will also allow for Internet payment via credit card for Letters of introduction, LOI, as well as possible registration with ServasOnline.

Some Servas member groups are unable to register their organization in their own country domestic, since they can not prove that the parent body (SI) to which they are affiliated is a registered body.

SI also face some occasional problems in contacts with banks, although at the moment we have a full banking relationship established with a respected Swiss bank.

Since the Distant Vote in November 2011, in which EXCO was authorized to seek a suitable country in which to register SI, no suitable country has been found. As of now, SI is not registered.

For the previous and current EXCO the question of recognition and registration has been and is an ongoing project. Progress has been made and the goal is to have the matter resolved before SIGA2015.

High priority matters and projects

For EXCO it is of high priority for the group to:

- * support the strengthening of the structure and network for Servas peace secretaries around the world.
- * increase the profile and visualization of Servas' presence and work inside the United Nations system.
- * efforts to present SI's financial documentation through transparent and more timely reporting
- * make preparations and plans for SIGA2015
- * pursue the Start-up Contacts project which aims at making it easier to join Servas, reduce bureaucracy and start up Servas in new and 'sleeping countries'
- * make the SI Handbook up to date
- * analyse applications and make decisions about funding SI regional area meetings as well as youth and family in Ukraine, Belarus, Spain, Great Britain and Spain (plus Kirgizistan 2014).
- * increase Servas presence and visibility in social media like Facebook and Twitter.

Currently There are now three and

SI EXCO is also giving priority to the continuously ongoing need to make decisions about matters on a day-to-day basis. The current SI EXCO has inherited a method for making decisions via email between our scheduled meetings.

Please find detailed information about EXCO's work in the reports from the individual board members on the following pages.

EXCO meetings

During the period August 2012–December 2013 SI Exco has had 17 recorded meetings. The meetings have generally been on the third Saturday every month via web based video and phone conferences (Skype or Google Hangout). In September 2013, Exco met for a face-to-face meeting in the UK for a prolonged weekend. Another face-to-face meeting was held in France 27–30th of March 2014.

All meetings have been recorded. The minutes were up until December 2013/January 2014 available on the Wikimedia website servas.org/siexco, but when the main website servas.org went out of service the Wikimedia site also became unaccessible.

Until the new Servas International website has been restored minutes from any of the Exco meetings can be obtained by sending an email to president@servas.org.

In peace,

Servas International EXCO

Jonny Sågänger, President (Sweden)

Ann Greenhough, Vice President (Great Britain)

Arnoud Philippo, Host List Coordinator (Netherlands)

Danielle Serres, Peace Secretary (France)

Jaime Romero, General Secretary (Colombia)

Mirek Wasilewski, Treasurer (Poland)



SI EXCO, from left to right: Ann Greenhough, Arnoud Philippo, Jonny Sågänger, Mirek Wasilewski, Jaime Romero, Danielle Serres

**Expenses of
SI EXCO
members**

**August 2012
- December
2013**

	DETAILS: cost refunds for 2012 resulting from Servas activities	2013 in EUR terms, cost summary	DETAILS: cost refunds for 2013 resulting from Servas activities	2013 in EUR terms, cost summary	costs of participating in SI EXCO face-to-face meeting, Sept. 2013	SI EXCO face-to-face meeting, Sept. 2013, cost summary		Total expenses of SI EXCO members in the period Aug 2012 - Dec 2013
Jonny Saganger	EUR 13.54	EUR 13.54	CHF 71.09	EUR 57.71	EUR 542.03 + CHF 123.77	EUR 642.51	EUR	713,76
Ann Greenhough	EUR 0	EUR 0	EUR 234.88	EUR 234.88	EUR 0	EUR 0	EUR	234,88
Jaime Romero	EUR 90.85	EUR 90.85	EUR 221.60 + EUR 51.13	EUR 272.73	EUR 1743.47	EUR 1743.47	EUR	2107,05
Danielle Serres	EUR 80.20	EUR 80.20	EUR 194.89+ EUR 206.19+ EUR 10.19	EUR 411.27	EUR 423.91	EUR 423.91	EUR	915,38
Arnoud Philippo	EUR 0	EUR 0	EUR 0	EUR 0	EUR 158.49	EUR 158.49	EUR	158,49
Mirosław Wasilewski	EUR 239.90 + EUR 878.34	EUR 1118.24	EUR 219,87	EUR 219,87	EUR 177.02	EUR 177.02	EUR	1515,13
						TOTAL:	EUR	5644,69

Note: in case of M. Wasilewski costs of sending SI stamps for 2012 and 2013 included; in 2012 the expense of EUR 878.34 represents travel to Bangalore for meetings with bookkeeper and external auditors (after GA 2012) and picking up the SI stamps for 2013

SI President

Jonny Sågänger

In my position as President of Servas International I have an overall responsibility to oversee the general operations of the organization.

I have also taken – and been given – a special responsibility to try to keep our most prioritized project on track: the modernization of the website on the domain servas.org. This project is taking a lot of my time as volunteer worker. Below you find a special report about the modernization of the website on the Internet domain servas.org below (*Annex 1 SI President on ServasOnline).

I try to be available to answer SI officer's and individual member's questions and – when I can't answer them – I try to refer them to the persons who have the right knowledge and competence.

I promote the development of Servas through contacts with other organizations akin to the philosophies and ideas of Servas. Since SIGA2012 I have made and/or have established contacts with key persons in the following organizations, among others: Children's International Summer Villages (CISV), BeWelcome, Friendship Force International (FFI) and tripping.com.

I make it an priority to promote Servas via social media like Facebook and Twitter, as well participate in the online discussions about the future of the organisation.

One of my main routine responsibilities is to plan and organize for the monthly and occasional face-to-face meetings with SI EXCO, which is Servas International's board. I make a draft agenda, invite the rest of the board members to give input and shoulder the responsibility to be the convenor of the meetings.

In my role as President and chair of SI's international board I have put effort into moving us from being a group to become a dynamic and productive team. This requires a move from more authoritarian leadership to more shared responsibilities. Getting better knowledge of each other enables added value and creative productivity. The dynamics are fostered by having a mix of people in a group – those that inspire, those that thrive on developing creativity out of chaos.

One corner stone in the creation of a dynamic team is that Exco publicly has adopted the rule 'Never express criticism about other members of a team who are not present'.

I have been given the opportunity to establish a working relationship with the youth collaborator Suzanne Stirling in Canada. On the 11th of June 2013 we had our first Internet live meeting and we've been hooking up with each other quite frequently ever since. The ambition is to have an Internet based meeting once every month.

It's great to be able to get Suzanne's perspective on what is important for a person her age in an organization like Servas.

Last but not least, my family and I receive travellers in our home in Stockholm, Sweden. During this reporting period we have had guests from for example Morocco, Ukraine, Switzerland, South Korea and Uganda. I have been able to enjoy the hospitality of Servas hosts in Scotland, Norway, Great Britain and France.

These experiences and interactions have all been rewarding, as always in Servas. They also serve a dual purpose, since they help me to "keep an ear to ground" so that I can keep track of how Servas is developing as an international organisation, and at the same time as I do my best to fulfill my responsibility to have an overall perspective.


The president's responsibility

According to the Servas International statutes the President of the organisation has the responsibility to:

- a) oversee the general operation of Servas International;
- b) preside over all meetings of Servas International or of the Executive Committee, or delegate this function to a suitable chairperson;
- c) represent Servas on other international bodies or delegate this function to other suitable persons;
- d) keep broadly informed about the work of Servas officers;
- e) represent the interests of Servas International News Editor and Servas Archivist in the Executive Committee;
- f) be responsible for the organisation of the International Conference/General Assembly;
- g) be responsible for the agenda of the Executive Committee and the agenda of the General Assembly;
and
- h) perform any other functions directed by the General Assembly.

Source: SI statues, revised at SIGA2012

Jonny Sägänger



Ann Greenhough,

SI Vice President

August 2012 to December 2013

As vice president my main area of responsibility is to encourage all aspects of Servas development at an international, regional and local level and to support the work of the president in a variety of other tasks. I am the Exco link person with Area Coordinators, the Development Committee and the Servas Youth Team.

I have contributed to Exco discussions and decision-making at our monthly skype meetings and by email. I also hosted the first Exco face to face meeting at my home in September 2013.

Development

- Since the 2012 GA I have supported the three remaining area coordinators in post in Africa, Central America and East Asia. Following Jaime Romero's retirement on joining Exco, there have been consultations with South American national groups about an election for a new area coordinator. A similar exercise is to take place in South West Central Asia. In November 2013 a new East Asia coordinator was elected at a regional meeting in China. An African regional meeting planned to be in Botswana was postponed when it became clear it could not be financially viable.
- In some regions where national groups have decided not to have an area coordinator they have come together to organise regional meetings. In South East Asia there have been meetings in Malaysia and Thailand with a further meeting planned in 2015. In East Europe meetings have taken place in Belarus and the Ukraine with a further meeting planned in 2014 in Georgia.
- To support such meetings I have worked closely with the Development Committee in providing encouragement to organisers in preparing for their meeting as well as giving practical help with applying for funding. Having agreed the use of a single form for applications for funding from different budgets we will continue to look at ways to simplify funding procedures, without compromising accountability for how SI resources are used.
- Following the 2012 GA I supported the temporary youth team of eight who were later elected as a team by distant vote in November 2013. There are now five members in the team who continue to promote Servas youth activities.
- I worked with Servas Spain and the youth team on preparations for the youth and family meeting in Spain which I later attended in August 2013.
- As a temporary measure pending the new SI website I produced two development bulletins for distribution to all members via the international key list. Further editions were disrupted when both the servas.org and siexco.org websites were closed down but more are planned during 2014. Once the new SI website is in place the aim will be for up to date information about Servas activities to be easily available to anyone interested in joining Servas as well as existing members.
- At the youth and family meeting there were discussions about possible projects aimed at Servas families such as exchanges and family camps. I will continue to promote those ideas and ensure the new website includes a family page as decided at the 2012 GA.

Servas Future Project

- A decision at the 2012 GA envisaged a Servas Planning Group to look at the future focus of Servas as an organisation. When it proved difficult to find a convenor from outside of Exco to form such a group I explored other possibilities for promoting a debate about a positive future for Servas.
- A key outcome of this will be an international meeting in June 2014 organised jointly by Servas Britain and myself on behalf of SI. Entitled ‘Where next for Servas?’ it will be an opportunity to look at what makes Servas special and how new initiatives and projects might enhance what Servas has to offer people of all ages for the future.

Other activities

- As part of advanced planning for SIGA 2015 I have worked on behalf of the president to gather and coordinate information about possible venues prior to Exco making a decision about where the meeting is to be held. I will continue to work on preparations as part of the SIGA 2015 steering group.
- Following a 2009 GA decision I have worked with the Servas Britain committee on the first steps towards setting up a Servas International Youth Fund, initially to be managed in the UK. It is hoped that there will be sufficient donations from national groups and individual members to provide grants for active young people in Servas to participate in SIGA 2015.
- As plans progress on Servas On Line and a new website I have made contributions to non-technical aspects of the project such as how the new website will look and feel.

Treasurer, SI Exco

Mirosław Wasilewski

Warsaw, May 29, 2014.

Activity report

August 2012-December 2013

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Treasurer's Main Fields of Responsibilities :

- day-to-day running of financial matters of Servas International
- keeping the financial accounts and records and arrange for auditing
- sending invoices and collect money owned to SI
- collecting financial information from member groups
- sending SI stamps and account for them
- supervising the collection of the ServasOnLine contributions
- supervising spending of SI money for various meetings financed in part or in full by SI
- controlling other SI expenses and refunds made on behalf of SI
- controlling bank accounts of SI

Activities of the Treasurer :

- in 2012 and 2013 SI stamps were sent to all who ordered them either on formal order forms or in any other form; sending stamps for 2014 started in late 2013 and is being continued through 2014
- contacts with Servas entities throughout the world were kept in order to prepare complete documentation on used and returned stamps, on payments for stamps, and on other expenses to be presented for booking and audit
- advances to Servas officers and Servas activists were sent and expense documentation collected, reviewed, approved and presented for booking and audit purposes; at the moment there are three cases of major advances not closed: two persons from Africa had received travel grants for travel to General Assembly 2012 and did not appear there neither returned the unused grants and the SI Treasurer keeps a substantial advance which is used for current SI expenses ; this advance held by the SI Treasurer is accounted for and expenses documented on a current basis and current information is being sent to SI EXCO, SI Internat Audit Committee and to our bookkeeper
- refunds of costs for 2012 and 2013 were made to all relevant Servas Officers upon receiving required supporting documentation and according to the rules of 'Financial Operating Procedures'
- detailed reviews and verifications of costs presented for refunds has been done resulting in prolonged discussions in some cases and revisions of those costs in several cases

- clarifying of various outstanding financial items is a current on-going process, especially in the area of stamp payments and – partly - ServasOnLine contributions
- in November 2012 the Treasurer met the bookkeeper and the external auditor in Bangalore, India; this helped to clarify and speed up a number of bookkeeping, accounting and audit issues and helped to close the complex financial settlements resulting from the organization of General Assembly 2012; all other contacts with them were via e-mails and post
- financial years 2011 and 2012 were closed and audited SI accounts are available; this procedure took long time due partly to consequences of intercontinental communication by e-mails and partly due to the need of clarifying and verifying a lot of financial details
- the closing of the 2013 financial year is going on and required data have been supplied to the bookkeeper ; a <first cut > financial report for 2013, as a working document, has been produced and is available to SI EXCO and Internal Audit Committee for preliminary internal reviews and comments
- The Treasurer took active part in all SI EXCO activities related both to financial areas and general SI operations;
- From early 2013 SI Treasurer is working on organizing the process of preparing a budget proposal for years 2016 – 2019 to be presented to General Assembly 2015; organization of a Consultative Budget Meeting has been proposed and this proposal has been presented to Servas community worldwide

Expenditures of the Treasurer

The expenses of the SI Treasurer in period from August 2012 to December 2013 related to the following :

- telecommunication expenses, postage expenses and office expenses related to the Treasurer's activities refunded according to the general rules of 'Financial Operating Procedures'
- costs of the meetings in which the Treasurer participated (two SI EXCO meetings and a meeting with the external auditor and bookkeeper); the expenses of those meetings were refunded according to the general rules of 'Financial Operating Procedures'
- the Treasurer took an effort to minimize the refundable costs of his activities (stress on using public transportation only; using Skype instead of telephone networks whenever possible, overnight stay with Servas hosts, minimized internet expenses and stationary expenses etc.)

Problem areas:

- procedures leading to updating the banking rights of SI EXCO elected in 2012 need to be accomplished
- a complete review of all outstanding financial dues to SI is needed

Additional Comment from the Treasurer

The Treasurer wishes to thank all who cooperate with him, especially when patience is required in explaining things, clarifying financial issues and when sometime extra time is involved in e-mail communications.

Special thanks go to LV Subramanian, the former SI Treasurer, whose help and support cannot be overestimated.

Mirosław Wasilewski,

Treasurer, SI EXCO

Warsaw, May 29, 2014.

Servas International Peace Secretary

Danielle Serres

2013 Annual Report Summary

Servas International (SI), run by volunteers in more than 100 countries over the world, is a non-governmental, international peace federation of national Servas groups. SI was founded in 1949 as a peace movement and works towards the development of understanding, tolerance and world peace. The efficiency of our work has been recognized by the United Nations. So SI received consultative status to the ECOSOC in 1973.

Peace in relations both between and within societies is essential for progress toward the Millennium Development Goals and for sustainable development. We are convinced that SI is able to play a key-role in the next ten years!

In 2013, in my capacity of Servas International Peace Secretary, I have been doing my best to fulfill my tasks, as described in SI Peace Secretary Job Description. Also as a member of EXCO, I have collaborated with my colleagues to address specific issues. As a reminder, this is the SI Peace Secretary Job description:

The Peace Secretary shall:

- a) Promote the peace aspect of Servas International in national groups and internationally;
- b) Coordinate the work of national Peace Secretaries;
- c) Represent the interests of the UN delegates and national Peace Secretaries in EXCO; and
- d) Encourage liaison with other peace organizations, and arrange representation in such organizations when appropriate.

a) Promote the peace aspect of Servas International in national groups and internationally:

Summarized and published GA 2012 Peace workshops on servas.siexco.org in the Peace projects section.

Sent a speech to Universidad El Bosque (February 2013), to Servas Argentina and Uruguay in the occasion of their joint action to celebrate Int. Peace Day, and to the Trinational Conference in the US in June 2013.

Met with several National Peace Secretaries (Servas France, Spain, UK, Mexico and Switzerland).

Updated SI Servas Handbook (Point I.5. Peace Activities).

Tracked information to be published on Servas Facebook pages, on UN peace related issues and more generally to raise awareness about the peace aspects of Servas.

In May 2013, I attended Servas Britain GA where I made a presentation on SI Peace Secretary Role, and set up an exhibition of posters related to peace prepared by Servas France Peace Committee. Also in May 2013, I attended Servas France GA, where I promoted SI News, and explained my role as SI Peace Secretary.

b) Coordinate the work of national Peace Secretaries:

With the help of the ICT team, I have created and updated an email address to reach all Nat Peace Secretaries, at natpeacesecretaries@servas.org, and urged key persons to update info about Nat Peace Secretaries.

Through a motion for November 2013 Distant Vote, I have encouraged the nomination of a Nat. Peace Sec. in each Servas member country. As of March 22, 2014, 35 Nat Peace Secretaries are registered in Dolphin.

To respond to many requests I received for guidelines from several new Nat Peace Secretaries and other key people, I have started to work on a job description for Nat Peace Secretaries.

I wrote articles for SI News, and for the Key persons Bulletin.

I have set up the Project *International Peace Day* September 21.

c) Represent the interests of the UN delegates and national Peace Secretaries in EXCO

Registered former and new representatives in three UN venues, updated information on Dolphin and on the UN database and set up arrangements for communicating via Skype with Main UN Rep in the US and submitted a model for UN Reps business cards.

Published UN related information on servas.org/siexco, wrote and gathered articles for SI News.

Recruited an assistant (Magnus Adams, 27 years old, from Servas Germany), helped and supported him to represent SI at the UN in Geneva, communicating regularly by email and Skype. Magnus Adams has been granted a certificate by SI President.

Prepared a written statement and an oral statement for the HRC 24th session in Geneva with Magnus' help which I delivered to the HRC Assembly on Sept 10. I arranged those to be made available to the wider Servas community, including translations in other languages.

Set up a meeting with Servas France members and Servas Switzerland new Peace Secretary, also with local UN representatives Hilda and Catherine Bürer, while in Geneva Sept 8 to 11, 2013 and attended several sessions during HRC 24th session (Sept 9 and 10).

Started to work on a job description for UN Observers, in collaboration with current SI UN representatives and other key people, including Job Description Committee.

d) Encourage liaison with other peace organizations, and arrange representation in such organizations when appropriate:

The most accepted and strongest Peace Organization is the UN. It's very important for Servas International to have a good representation, and particularly I advocate for a permanent SI representation at the UN in Geneva.

Also we miss guidelines for deciding which peace organizations, apart from the UN, are appropriate. Having a representation on the ground, particularly in Geneva, where most NGOs are based, would be very helpful.

We hope to organize a side event in Geneva in September 2014, preferably around International Peace Day.

Thanks to Magnus Adams, from Servas Germany, and SI Peace Secretary assistant, we have been able to give much more visibility to SI.

Also in 2013, I wrote an article for Peace & Harmony Conference in India, upon request by Servas India NS.

I also met with Bradford Peace Museum manager to establish further cooperation, and we will have a joint event during Servas International Event to be held in Dalesbridge, UK, in June 2014.

Projects

Give more visibility to Peace activities organized by Servas countries, and work for more activities linked with other NGOs in 2014.


Complete UN Observers and Nat. Peace Secretaries Job descriptions, working with relevant people and committees.

Recruit more people locally to strengthen our work at the UN.

Prepare a side event for HRC 27th Session in Geneva in September 2014, and have a statement ready.

Advance the *Respectful Communications Principles and Anti-Abuse procedures*.

Recommendation

- Clearly identify peace as a Servas key aspect, in all our communication and activities.
 - Support SI UN representatives more effectively.
- 

Servas International Hostlist Coordinator

Arnoud Philippo

Individual achievements and goals August 2012 (SIGA Poland) – December 2013)

Date: April 3, 2014

A Tasks

To fulfill the tasks that are:

1. described in the Statutes of Servas International:

The Host List Coordinator shall: a. collect orders for lists and notify national groups of these orders; b. receive and distribute host lists for certain national groups as appropriate; and c. produce and distribute host lists for certain national groups as appropriate.

2. decided at the General Assembly 2012:

August 23, no. 8: To recommend EXCO to look for any suitable system to protect Host Lists so every Host List can be sent in Electronic Form to approved travelers. Request ICT to find a better way to protect PDF files and personal data. It is proposed a maximum budget of CHF360 a year, until ServasOnLine is implemented.

August 23, no.9: To save effort, only countries with less than 70% score in the previous HL Reliability survey will be surveyed. Countries will be emailed first, and telephone calls only made to those who do not reply to the email. Any countries requesting SI funding must be surveyed, and their Host List must be at least 70% reliable and fit into the standard format defined by SI HL Coordinator. (To be part of the SI Financial Operating Procedures.) Standard Host List Format: Based on Dolphin/Whale format. A budget of CHF300 will be needed according previous experience.

August 24 no. 8: Every Servas International EXCO member, every committee and every elected officer is strongly encouraged to appoint an assistant between 18 and 30 at the time of the appointment whenever possible.

3. other tasks

Apart from the tasks mentioned above, I set some 'personal tasks'. I suppose that these tasks will contribute to a better functioning Servas:

- a. increase the quality and quantity of the presence of Servas on internet
- b. increase quality and quantity of written and spoken communication through internet
- c. increase accessibility
- d. develop Servas from a mainly 'countrybased organisation' to a more 'global organisation'.
- e. to inform myself about opinions of people in Servas, especially people with 'young' ideas.

B Facebook-groups and Facebook-page

In 2012 I created and administrated the open Facebookgroup Servas International. In cooperation with the administrators of the open group and the page, a description and guidelines for the group Servas International

were discussed. On November 17, 2012 Exco discussed and decided about the plan 'policy for the use of Facebook for Servas' I wrote. Exco decided on descriptions (in the group/page), purpose and responsibility. I continued to be the administrator of the group.

In December 2013 there were 554 individual members and 49 applications for membership. The members were from 69 different countries.

C Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Wikipedia-page about Servas International is established in March 2003 by Claudio Pacchiega (born in 1962, Italy). Claudio was former National Secretary in Italy and also active on an international level. The page is called 'Servas Open Doors'. Many people contributed to this page. Ömer Özkan (Turkey, 2007/2011), Pablo Colangelo (Argentina, 2011/2014), Mark Hahn (Canada, 2011/2012), and Arnoud Philippo (The Netherlands, 2013) were members of Servas who did updates of the page.

D Servas Start-Up Contacts

At the Face-to-face meeting in England (September 21, 2013) it was decided that Arnoud Philippo sets up a new list 'Servas start-up contacts'. He will produce a draft for the project by 30 November. Due to personal circumstances this date was changed to January 1, 2014. The document (Servas Start-Up Contacts, version 1) was produced on December 31, 2013 and sent to EXCO-members on December 31, 2013 and resent January 25, 2014.

E Host List Reliability Test 2014

Decision (September 21, 2013) of the Face-to-face meeting in England:

AP to prepare a plan for how to do the host list reliability test and a timetable for the test, by 31 October 2013

The plan (version 1, including time-table) was written and sent to exco on November 3, 2013. In the

F Hostlistreliability

Test 2010 the hostlists of 78 countries were tested. 38 of these countries had a score of less than 70 %; 40 countries had a score of 70 % or more. 41 countries are 'new', they were not tested in 2010. 31 of these countries have 10 or less (day)hosts. So, the hostlists of a total number of 81 countries have to be tested in 2014.

Various topics

Audio-visual materials on internet

Because there were pictures and video's about the General Assembly in Poland published on internet (e.g. Youtube) what might not be appreciated by some people, I wrote a motion about guidelines and a complaint-procedure.


On February 17, 2013 I proposed and sent a motion, which was seconded and supported by JS and abstained by MW. I don't know what happened to the motion.

Website

In the Exco-meeting of May 2013 I told that I have been in touch with somebody related to the company that developed the (German) Globetrotters website. The design of that site might be a good one for Servas. I promised to send EXCO more information about the company that developed the Globetrotters web site, but did not manage to do so.

Assistant

According to General Assembly 2012 (decision August 24, no. 8), I am glad that Victoria Mrochko accepted my invitation to appoint her as the 'assistant of the SI Hostlist Coordinator', on September 12, 2013. Victoria (22) is member of Servas in Belarus. I am looking forward to a pleasant, constructive and valuable cooperation with Victoria !

The 'appointment' was published in the Facebookgroup Servas International. Note: it might be better not to use the word 'assistant' but 'collaborator'?!


General Secretary

Jaime Romero

Original report was written in Spanish in order to honor the culture from which I come and represent.

Following are activities developed by Servas International General Secretary Jaime Romero

Final report up to august 30th 2013 regarding annual report presented by all Servas countries around the world, which number rises to 50 corresponding to 36% of the total number of countries compared to the current Dolphin registry. But this corresponds also to 63% of the total number of SI member countries.

Analysis based on the current status of the organization in the countries which presented the annual report and conclusions about improvements opportunities regarding annual report presented by them.

Management of DV process and workings for 2013-2014-2015 DV yearly calendar, (together with DV administrator). DV May 2013 coordination which didn't included any motion from SI member countries. DV Nov 2013 Coordination which had generated 5 final motions, already written and concerted, which had been sent by the DV Administrator within the schedule and established period of time.

EXCO virtual meeting minutes management, which is already discussed audit, and approved posted at SI website (up to august 2013). There were monthly meetings with the exception of July where EXCO had a deserved period of vacations time. Our distinguished former GS Penny Pattison from Vancouver had accepted to contribute wit part of GS workings as the EXCO virtual meetings minutes recorder. Keeping the responsibility for publishing them to the current GS. As established on SI statutes. This is to help Split and assign GS to a working team because the current big amount of work the whole organization has in charge.

EXCO motions Registry and management for decision making process. There are currently 6 registered motions already voted and approved, there are 2 more motions in process of being discussed or to be voted.

EXCO member activity analysis from statutes, handbook, minutes from previous assemblies. It is related to a work on progress document having at this time the 3rd version to be discussed at the SI EXCO FtoF meeting in Manchester-England.

Activities to inquire about contents and approvals around the information to be included into the updated version of the SI Handbook. First outcome from this were the proposal of 2 different motions which were approved by EXCO for the next DV in Nov 2013.

Design, analysis and production to be published for the DV motion related to Servas Youth Team Executive group referring the GA2012 decision in accordance with SI VP.

On what pending activities for the next year is concern we will have:

Run DV process for the accorded periods, promoting discussions management about operative process optimization towards motions around the globe.

To improve internal communications between EXCO members, Nat Secretaries, and SI Committees though structures on the web where every officer will be able to upload their activity report every 6 month period.

Keep on with the EXCO meeting minutes and recordings management working on a team for the GS.

Conform, lead and work on a team for the SI operative process map management.

To consolidate the current system model of organization and explain all Nat Groups about the current working federative model using public ways of communications like SI Newsletter and Facebook groups among other communication channels.

To finish with the SI Handbook optimization to put it under consideration and as a proposal to be voted in future polls.

To arrange current information at the Servas International EXCO website in order to generate a structure to make easier for anyone to handle the information there, and be able to find information faster than today. It will be also to contribute to SOL Project.

Jaime Romero

Bogotá

Colombia

The Team:

- Ewa Dzierzawska (Poland) - Committee Chair elected by DC members
- Aneris Cao (Argentina and Chile)
- Anna Christina Siragusa (Italy)
- Joel Kaloba (Zambia)
- Pablo Chufeni (Argentina)

2. The Meetings

Since the last GA, when DC began its work, we've met several times on skype. Unfortunately, most of the time we've had lots of difficulties in communication because of the bad internet connection, some members got suddenly cut off etc. That explains why we couldn't meet more often. We've often worked thanks to emails and instant messages.

Here is the list of our Skype meetings for 2012 – 2013 period:

October 15th 2012

January 4th 2013 (Ewa and Anna Christina)

February 11 th 2013

March 11th 2013

May 20th 2013

June 24th 2013

November 4th 2013

In between we've worked via mails to discuss things and take decisions in the DC.

3. The philosophy

1. *Developing and helping and not only funding.* Like the previous DC, this team has also dealt with development of Servas rather than funding. We've tried to be where we were needed. We went to the meetings to assist in development of national organizations' structures.

4. Activities

Our activities since September 2012:

- Close cooperation with Servas Youth Team to establish Servas in Belarus and develop Servas Ukraine. We jointly organised three meetings: two in Ukraine (Lvov and Kiev) and one in Belarus (Baranovichi). As a result Servas Belarus has started.

- As we found those meetings to be important, fruitful and happy , Servas Eastern Europe would like to continue with the meetings every year. We consider Riga (Latvia) or Georgia the next meeting place.
- Together with the youth team DC has been working on the youth meeting in Central Asia as this location would enable the young people, who don't come to international meetings for financial reasons, to travel to Kyrgyzstan as it'd be cheaper, easier to get to from their home countries. We've been in touch with Servas Kyrgyzstan the last four months. Christina Buynova (Russia) went to Bishkek in December to see the possible venues.
- Combined DC forces and private contacts (Amir Levy) has helped to re-establish Servas in Lithuania and Latvia.
- DC team has helped to establish Servas or assisted in development of national organizations' structures in Albania, Belize, Cameroon, East Timor.
- Anna Cristina is active on Facebook Servas Group
- This DC team has closely cooperated with Nancy Mitchell of the previous DC team. We are very grateful to her for continuing as Distant Interviewer.
- This DC team has also restructured the DC form to make it easier to apply for funds

Applications for DC grants (Estimated budget 3656 euros)

- Kiat Yun Tan of Malaysia applied for \$ 150 for the South East Asia meeting but due to some misunderstanding with SI Treasurer she finally gave it up. The misunderstanding was caused by the lack of precision and some ambiguities in the DC application form. This has been changed and the new application form has been accepted by SI Treasurer.

The money granted:

Victoria Mrochko of Belarus - 185 euro (registration fee) + 180 euro travelling expenses to attend the summer meeting in Spain

- Ewegeniy Gvozetsky of Ukraine - 185 euro (registration fee) + 200 euro travelling expenses to attend the summer meeting in Spain
- At this point DC decided to transfer the remaining money to the African regional meeting in Botswana but the meeting has been called off so we'd like to have the money transferred to the next year's budget.
- Christina Buynova of Russia - 300 euro travelling expenses to Kyrgyzstan to see the venues for the youth meeting in Kyrgyzstan in 2014.

5. The Year 2014

We plan to help organize the youth meeting in Kyrgyzstan.

We're ready to help organize the meeting in Africa.

We're ready to assist to develop Servas structures in the countries where the help is needed.

April 2014

Current members of the Youth Team

Heather Mason USA - servasheather@gmail.com

Gonzalo Forrero Colombia - godzilafo1@hotmail.com

Bina Sengar India - binasengar21@gmail.com

Cristian Ferrero Argentina - kitiferrero@hotmail.com

Janek Dzierżawski Poland – janek@servas.pl

Our main activities since GA in Poland

Presentation

Servas Youth structure has been completely re-modeled as the result of the GA 2012 decisions. To make people aware of the changes and make them more familiar with the new structure, we've created a presentation introducing the team and showing how it works now. We've also take it as an opportunity to promote Servas Youth actions, such as Servas Youth Language Experience and Servas Events. The presentation, containing many photos of Servas Youth activities, was shown on many

national and international meeting, e.g. In Sweden, Malaysia, Spain, Denmark, Britain and Israel.

An animated version was also created and put on youtube, to help spread the word about Servas Youth. The link was send in the first Servas Youth newsletter and can found here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6r7dibahj5k>. It was also promoted on Servas Youth facebook fanpage and Servas groups on Facebook.

Events

Continuing the tradition of Servas Youth meetings, Youth team was involved in Servas meeting in Spain, where two of us (Reut and Janek) were present. Reut was actively helping Susana in preparation of the meeting, we've also given a presentation about Servas Youth.

Apart from that, Youth Team, in cooperation with Development Committee and Servas Poland, was involved in Regional meetings in Ukraine (October 2012 Lviv, May 2013 Kiev) and Belarus (October 2013). These meeting were a part of project to develop Servas in Eastern Euro-pean countries, which was started at the youth meeting in Poland in Au-gust 2012. Young people from Bela-rus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland and Lat-via were present there, Youth Team was represented by Janek on all the meetings.



Servas Youth meeting in Belarus, October 2013

SYLE

The program is working in previous years and coordinated by Gonzalo. Most visits are to Latin America countries, but also Servas US organized a SYLE for Italian traveler. It's not only just a language experience, but also a cultural one, e.g. in countries that speak languages which are not that popular as Spanish and English. A Brazilian traveler spent a month in Po-land learning about the country where her great grandfather came from.

Newsletter

First edition on Servas Youth newsletter was prepared in July 2013 and send to the key people in Servas and Servas groups on Facebook. Second edition is almost finished and will be send soon.

PLANS BEFORE THE NEXT GA

We'd like to continue working on and developing our projects. We hope to find and encourage as many young ones as we can, to step forward and contribute to promote Servas in their own countries and to keep contact and help those young ones, who have already been active already to keep their enthusiasm and to do more in the near future.



Servas development

Young people often prefer Couchsurfing over Servas because it's easier to join it and find a host online. Most important things to develop would be the new Servas and Servas Youth website, which hopefully will be working soon. In longer term – ServasOnline project.

Regards

Heather Mason

DOLPHIN TEAM REPORT 2012-2013

Contact: dolphin.team@servas.org

Convener : Rita Dessauvage (Belgium)

Team Member : Pablo Colangelo (Argentina)

The main task of the dolphin team is to give support to those key persons needing assistance on how to use Dolphin System. Dolphin aims is to educate and offer solutions which will definitely let the people learn and progress on how to take advantage of the system making possible for them and their teams producing better host lists (HL) using the system, get benefit downloading/requesting HL (those which are permitted to be downloaded and distributed) or just surf deep into the SI structure to get communicated with the rest of the world through the day to day updated key list. Empowering also potential volunteers to get used to the system and contribute to a team working structure.

During 2013 there were a first special survey concerning the use of Dolphin and a comparative research regarding number of hosts in each country and a region itself comparing 2010 to 2013, this time the survey was performed in Latin America.

There was also a Dolphin Training workshop on demand in Buenos Aires, Argentina where some key persons and interested regular members whom were willing to become a volunteer came to learn and share common questions.

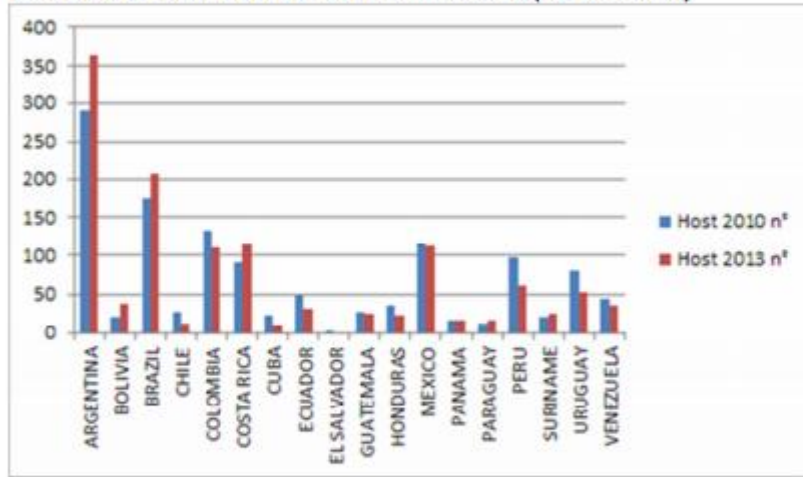
SURVEY DETAILS (JULY 2013)

SURVEY DETAILS (JULY 2013)

COUNTRY	DOLPHIN USE	Host 2010	Host 2013	STATUS
	N° Times in 2013	n°	n°	
ARGENTINA	272	291	364	M
BOLIVIA	1	22	39	M
BRAZIL	208	175	207	M
CHILE	19	27	14	M
COLOMBIA	12	133	109	M
COSTA RICA	2	91	113	M
CUBA	0	23	11	
ECUADOR	0	49	33	M
EL SALVADOR	0	1	0	
GUATEMALA	0	27	26	M
HONDURAS	0	36	23	M
MEXICO	38	117	111	M
PANAMA	17	17	17	M
PARAGUAY	4	13	17	M
PERU	5	98	62	M
SURINAME	8	22	25	M
URUGUAY	34	81	53	M
VENEZUELA	5	45	37	M
TOTAL	625	1268	1261	



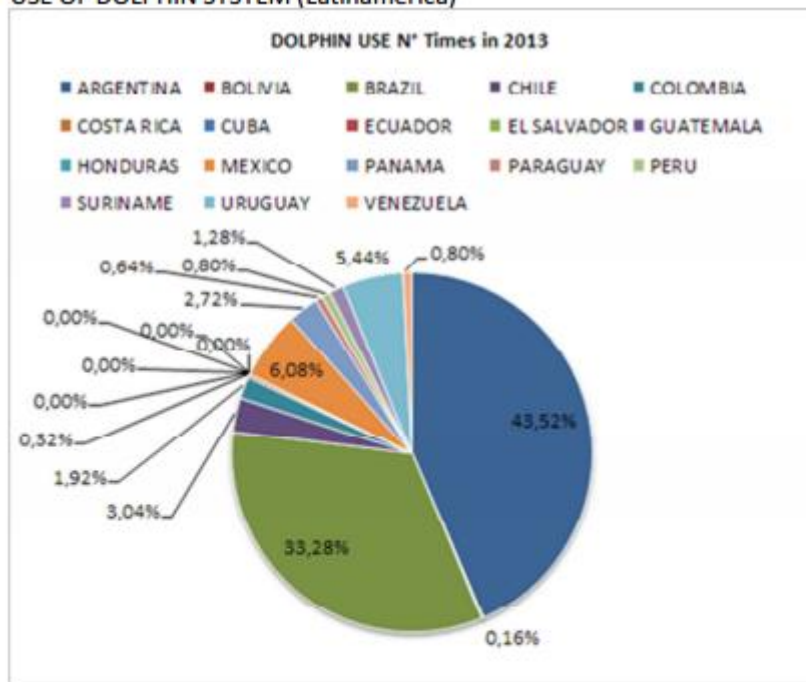
NUMBER OF HOSTS COMPARING 2010 to 2013 (Latinamerica)



Total N° of hosts in LA on 2010 = 1268

Total N° of hosts in LA on 2013 (by July) = 1261

USE OF DOLPHIN SYSTEM (Latinamerica)



The following countries HLs MUST be given to travelers in PAPER FORMAT ONLY

SWITZERLAND, NETHERLANDS, GERMANY, BOLIVIA, COSTA RICA, DENMARK, ECUADOR, GUATEMALA, IRELAND, JAPAN, SPAIN, UZBEKISTAN

List of countries with HL older than 2 years

COUNTRY	STATUS	HL YEAR	N°HOSTS	COUNTRY	STATUS	HL YEAR	N°HOSTS	COUNTRY	STATUS	HL YEAR	N°HOSTS
Nicaragua	-	2008	14	Myanmar	-	2011	1	Kenya	M	2012	13
Syria	-	2009	1	Nigeria	M	2011	26	Kyrgyzstan	M	2012	17
Malta	-	2009	3	Philippines	-	2011	8	Lithuania	M	2012	13
Kosovo	-	2010	1	Saudi Arabia	-	2011	2	Madagascar	-	2012	1
Estonia	-	2010	18	Taiwan	M	2011	52	Maldives	-	2012	1
Ethiopia	-	2010	3	Togo	-	2011	55	Morocco	M	2012	21
Liberia	-	2010	10	United Arab Emirates - UAE	-	2011	9	Nepal	M	2012	33
Lesotho	-	2010	1	Egypt	-	2012	9	Peru	M	2012	62
Mozambique	-	2010	1	Kazakhstan	M	2012	14	Russia	M	2012	193
Sierra Leone	M	2010	12	Congo Brazzaville (RC)	M	2012	23	Senegal	-	2012	2
Bulgaria	-	2011	19	Bangladesh	-	2012	7	Singapore	M	2012	14
Colombia	M	2011	133	Belarus	-	2012	5	Slovenia	M	2012	15
Burundi	-	2011	1	Bolivia	M	2012	39	South Africa	M	2012	53
Myanmar	-	2011	1	Congo Kinshasa (DRC)	-	2012	1	Sri Lanka	M	2012	17
Nigeria	M	2011	26	Ecuador	M	2012	33	Uganda	M	2012	27
Philippines	-	2011	8	Honduras	M	2012	23	Ukraine	M	2012	12
Saudi Arabia	-	2011	2	Hong Kong	M	2012	20	Uzbekistan	M	2012	8
Taiwan	M	2011	52	Indonesia	M	2012	42	Zambia	M	2012	14
Togo	-	2011	55								

List of countries with HL newer than 1 year

COUNTRY	STATUS	HL YEAR	N°HOSTS	COUNTRY	STATUS	HL YEAR	N°HOSTS	COUNTRY	STATUS	HL YEAR	N°HOSTS	COUNTRY	STATUS	HL YEAR	N°HOSTS
Italy	M	2013	1190	Cameroon	M	2013	20	Ireland	M	2013	92	Tanzania	-	2013	18
Switzerland	M	2013	129	Canada	M	2013	677	Japan	M	2013	281	Trinidad and Tobago	-	2013	2
Netherlands	M	2013	212	Mongolia	-	2013	1	Lebanon	-	2013	2	United States - USA	M	2013	53
Romania	M	2013	18	Chile	M	2013	14	Luxembourg (see Belgium and Lux)	-	2013	7	Venezuela	M	2013	38
Greece	M	2013	21	China	M	2013	30	Hawaii	M	2013	50	Vietnam	-	2013	9
Germany	M	2013	1326	Costa Rica	M	2013	105	Malaysia	M	2013	35	Zimbabwe	-	2013	7
Mexico	M	2013	111	Croatia	M	2013	20	France / Martinique	-	2013	1	Turkey	M	2014	230
France	M	2013	1345	Cyprus	-	2013	1	Maertius	-	2013	8	United States - USA	M	2014	1589
South Korea	M	2013	262	Czech Republic	M	2013	118	France / New Caledonia	-	2013	1	Israel	M	2014	236
India	M	2013	275	Denmark	M	2013	228	Norway	M	2013	114	Belgium and Luxembourg	M	2014	317
France / French Polynesia	-	2013	1	Finland	M	2013	73	Pakistan	M	2013	80	Albania	-	2014	1
Algeria	-	2013	1	Benin	-	2013	10	Panama	M	2013	17	Argentina	M	2014	369
Armenia	-	2013	6	France / French Guiana	-	2013	2	Paraguay	M	2013	19	Austria	M	2014	138
Australia	M	2013	468	Georgia	M	2013	15	Portugal	M	2013	56	Hungary	M	2014	144
Bermuda	-	2013	1	Tunisia	-	2013	1	Portugal	M	2013	56	Iceland	-	2014	0
Botswana	M	2013	14	France / Guadeloupe	-	2013	2	France / Reunion	-	2013	50	Jordan	-	2014	4
Brazil	M	2013	214	Iran	M	2013	27	Slovakia	M	2013	31	New Zealand	M	2014	285
Cambodia	-	2013	1	Guatemala	M	2013	26	Spain	M	2013	617	Poland	M	2014	355
												Suriname	M	2014	25

SI INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE (SI IAC)

Phyllis Chinn (USA), LV Subramanian (India) and Emmanuel Kakinda (Uganda)

We at the AuC have completed the following

1. Review of 2011 and 2012 Final Accounts and have already submitted the Internal Audit Reports (copies of which are being enclosed) for your ready reference.

2. Updating and modifying the FOP and the copy of the same was sent to EXCO so that the revised FOP could be presented at the GA at Poland and get the approval.

3. There has been a continuing discussion on the holding of the budget meeting by Auc members along with the Treasurer at Bangalore sometime during October 2014. In my individual capacity I was not much in favour of this meeting because :
 - a- There was no budget allocation available for spending the air fare of members and treasurer to Bangalore.

 - b- The budget should be based on the activities that the elected committees have planned to achieve during the budgeted period and they should spell out the costs which they wish to incur for achieving these objectives. Till now budgets are prepared by a working group just before the GA and done by members who are not connected with the respective committees for which the budgets are prepared. Hence there is a mismatch between the activity and the amount budgeted.

 - c- The proposed amount of the budget meeting namely the travel costs of Mirek from Poland , Phyllis from US and Emmanuel from Africa would be substantial and there is no available budget for this spend. For the audit of 2013 accounts, we could have the details of all expenses sent to the audit members for their review and conduct our meeting over skype thereby saiving money for SI.

 - d- I had prepared and shared the budget format with all concerned which would be a good starting point for the operating committees to adopt but for which I do not have any feedback.

LVS

Annexes

The following SI IAC reports are [Internal Audit Committee \(SI IAC\) Annex 1-2](#)

[Internal Audit Report for SI Annual Accounts for the year ending 31stDecember 2011](#)

[Internal Audit Report for SI Annual Accounts for the year ending 31stDecember 2012](#)

2012 - 2015

Email: nominations@servas.org

Feb.2014

Annual Activities Report - Sep 2012 - Dec 2013.

Dear Exco members and Servas friends

We are pleased to present the Nominations Committee report, based on the president request and Servas guidelines.

Content:

1. Committee members.
2. Main activities list.
3. Future plans and desired achievements.
4. Development expectations from Servas International. (Both on short and long term).
5. Special focus expectations from SI Exco until SIGA2015.

1. Committee members

- Amir Levy - Conveyor - (gm12345@gmail.com)
- Jean Seymour - Member - (jean.seymour1@ntlworld.com)
- Norma Nicholson - Member - (n.c.nicholson@gmail.com)

2. Main activities list

As known, the nature of the nomination committee is to become really active about a year before the coming GA, when starts the need to address all Servas members and invite them to submit their nominees. Unless other types of elections are required along the way.

But parallel to that, a few types of other activities has been initiated from day one, such as studying the current status and requirements, the existing forms and procedures, the existing guidelines and so on.

Recently it became harder to keep doing it, as the web site, which consist off most of the required info is not active and the required info can't be found.

Another type of activity refers to the future plans, giving a lot of thoughts and analyze about the ways of recruiting more members who will be willing to nominate themselves, the ways to advertize the call for them, the list of criteria and so on.

3. Future plans and desired achievements

- Creating clear and easy to understand nominations and elections procedure, rules and guidelines, including an updated list of criteria such as dead lined and having at least two nominees for each position.
- Composing an updated nomination form, based on the existing one.
- Establishing method and tools for advertisement and encouraging members to nominate themselves or suggesting others.
- Investigating and establishing equal options and opportunities for those who can't attend the GA in person.
- Establishing an updated list of criteria for who can be nominated and what are the basic requirements from him.
- Composing a letter of invitation and recruiting new members to be nominated.

4. Development expectations from Servas International. (Both on short and long term)

- Providing the ability to place all the information above on the Servas Int. web site.
- Providing the ability to create an On Line nomination form.
- Providing the ability to extract and use the nominations list information places on the web site.
- Allocating a proper budget and resources for implementing the above web items.
- Getting help from Exco in locating and encouraging potential nominees.
- Establishing methods and tools for other types of elections beside the GA ones.

5. Special focus expectations from SI Exco until SIGA2015

- Doing its best to encourage more young people to join Servas and become active.
- Improving the flow of information among Key persons and all members, based on tools and programs, which are being widely used, including having one, which there any required info can be found. (For example, these days some of the info is being published only on Facebook, which is not in use by everyone and for some like in slow internet countries also hard to enter and be read.)
- Having a web site, which will be appealing and eye catching for new and existing members. The last version was quite far from it, and then also hard to find the basic required info for those who are not so familiar with Servas.
- Having the host lists and all info available to all, and mainly to key persons. (Basically the Servas on Line project).
- Creating a new, clear, fair and efficient list of criteria for those who ask to be funded for the next GA, based mainly on their activities record, developing and achievements. (Will be glad to specify and suggest upon request).

6. Summery

The nominations committee members wish to thank the Exco members for their ongoing work and efforts to keep Servas running and making it a better organization.

We will be more than happy to help and advice in case of need.

Norma, Jean and Amir

Chris Patterson,

Annual Report, 2013

Contact Details: Email: servasdva@pl.net

Phone: +64 27 430 9297

Postal: PO Box 67-040, Mt Eden,

Auckland 1349, New Zealand

Main Activities since GA 2012

December 2012

Recommendation for Distant Votes schedule through to the next GA in 2015 sent to EXCO. The schedule adopted has Distant Votes closing at the end of May and November in 2013 and 2014.

December 2012 – March 2013

Preparation for Distant Vote May 2013 (DV May 2013). While there were motions to be considered in the Distant Vote, the wording was not finalised in time to meet the timetable for the voting process. In the event DV May 2013 was cancelled.

June 2013 – December 2013

Preparations for DV Nov 2013 and voting process ran as planned. All five motions achieved the **double majority** necessary for them to be declared adopted “as if they have been passed by a meeting of the General Assembly”.

The vote turnout was 70% of the seventy seven (77) Member Group countries eligible and able to vote. The results were sent to the SI General Secretary on 4 December 2013, 4 days after voting closed.

Comments and Observations

1. For me 2013 has been a period of adjustment and building understanding. The Distant Vote process while simple in concept, requires effective communication among the parties involved to work smoothly with the deadlines set by the SI Statutes. This was easier with the previous EXCO, where the General Secretary, Penny Pattison, had been involved in developing the Distant Vote process through several GAs.
2. The deadline for the submission of motions for a Distant Vote is now four months before the closing date for voting. While this allows motions for the next DV to “follow-on” from the results of the previous DV it has also compressed the timetable for the distant vote process as a whole.
3. The distant vote process is intended to provide time for the draft text of motions to be circulated among Servas countries so that the final wording of motions can be informed by feedback and comment. Ideally, for this to happen the subject and draft wording of motions needs to be available and circulated well before the voting papers are sent out.

4. In the past the Servas web site has been an integral part of the Distant Vote process by making the motions and any supporting or discussion documents available to the voters. With the fragility of the Servas website this did not happen for DV Nov2013. It is hoped this facility will be available again before too long, ideally in a form that facilitates my loading information directly rather than having to send it to someone else to upload.


Aims through to GA 2015

My aim through to the next GA is to work with EXCO to effectively run the remaining Distant Votes (DV Nov 2014) and to enhance the understanding of the Distant Vote process among the officeholders in Servas countries.

Financial Report

No expenses to be claimed for reimbursement by Servas International since all correspondence is by e-mail and there is no travel required.

Chris Patterson, 1 May 2014



1. Committee Members:

- i) Julie Dotsch (oneworld@sympatico.ca)
- ii) Marneo Serenelli (0719160942@iol.it)
- iii) Clare Mateke (cmateke@gmail.com)

2. Main activities during the period September 2012 – December 2013

- i) There were two formal complaints that the former CRC committee received prior to September 2012, which were still unresolved before the youth conference and GA in Poland, in September 2012. These were either fully or mostly resolved with the committee's help through face-to-face mediation. The former CRC committee members helped with the final stages of the conflict, after their term ended.

There were at least 5 informal, personal requests for advice during the conference. There were 3 more personal requests for advice on handling conflicts between Sept. 2012 and December 2013.

Our committee was contacted formally for advice with one complaint. We provided advice and follow up and the persons involved resolved this on their own. In this case legal counsel was sought by both parties involved in the conflict.

- ii) We continue to collaborate with Marijke from Servas New Zealand in the process of producing guidelines for national groups concerning handling of host – traveller conflicts.

3. A New Role for the Conflict Resolution Committee

It became clear that the committee was most effective face-to-face. Conflicts can easily escalate out of control without early intervention. One common difficulty was the frequent involvement of many other parties (through mass emails), informing others of the conflict. Another common difficulty was the lack of participation from one of the parties involved in a dispute. Our committee wants to try to remove some these barriers by:

- having a stronger mandate for all Servas officers to respond to the Conflict Resolution Committee when a complaint is filed
- having a code of ethics, confidentiality and conflict of interest oath (for ratification at the GA)
- having a budget for a committee member to travel to mediate in conflicts face-to-face in serious cases when needed

4. What the committee plans to achieve from 1st January 2014 to August 2015

- i) Remain alert and ready to respond to new requests for help in resolving conflicts
- ii) Continue to collaborate with Marijke Batenburg, National Secretary, Servas New Zealand in drafting guidelines for national committees in how to avoid or manage their own conflicts, particularly between hosts and travellers.
- iii) Post ready-to-use information and guidelines on the Servas website such as:
 - Names and contact details of the CRC
 - Job description, terms of reference and procedures of the CRC, including handling formal and informal complaints
 - Official Complaint Form (downloadable)
 - Tips on how to avoid conflict and how to handle conflicts within national groups and EXC0

5. Most important issues for Servas International to develop

i) Short term

- In SIGA 2015 vote on proposed guidelines/terms of reference for the CRC
- Present drafts of oaths for consideration, e.g. conflict of interest, confidentiality, code of ethics
- Consider a travel budget for face-to-face mediation through a CRC committee member (for serious difficult to resolve conflicts)

6. SI EXCO's Focus

- Ensure that guidelines relating to conflict provided by the committee are made available on the website
- Ensure that all members of EXCO are aware of the procedures for handling conflict and the role of the CRC and particularly the need for confidentiality
- Ensure that all members of EXCO refer national groups to the CRC when they are experiencing conflicts

submitted Mar.04/14

1. The names and email addresses: Rita Dessauvage <rita.dessauvage@telenet.be> and Harald Seiffert (with several email addresses, e.g. <treasurer@servas.de> or <ohaseiffert@gmx.net>), all in accordance with key dolphin

2. Main activities during the period September 2012 - December 2013: We didn't yet start the investigation as it hasn't done much sense just after the GA of 2012, and there were no requests of countries to get the member status.

3. What your committee plan to achieve from the 1st of January 2014 until the next SI GA in 2015: In case we get information about a new membership application we'll care for that and give recommendations at a DV or the GA; checking if members still meet the requirements will start end of 2014 / beginning of 2015 as this seems important for funding decisions. We use to base our investigation on the annual reports and on the HL reliability report. We hope, there will be done HL reliability tests now/soon like we had in 2011, organised by the former EXCO (SI HL coord. Pablo Colangelo).

4. What you think is most important for Servas International to develop: You recognised already and are working about that the SI website must become better and be kept up-to-date AND that the SOL project should get any support which is needed; but that's a general wish, not a particular one from the membership committee.

5. If there's anything you would like SI Exco to focus extra on until SI GA 2015: I'd like to repeat here myself (from 3.) - HL reliability tests – start soon if not already started

Harald Seiffert

August 2012- December 2013

This report describes the Job Description and Statutes Committees main activities from SIGA 2012 in August 2012 in Poland until 31st of December 2013.

1. Committee members:

- 1.1 Chris Jones from Servas Canadá. E-mail: tuerto@shaw.co;
- 1.2 Alvany Santiago from Servas Brazil. E-mail: alvanysantiago@gmail.com;
- 1.3 Jack Huang from Servas China. E-mail: jack.r.huang@msn.com.

2. Main activities - September 2012 - December 2013:

- 2.1 Servas Statutes was updated considering the decisions made during Siga 2012. Thanks Penny Pattison (Canada) for contributing.
- 2.2 We are working in developing job descriptions for National Peace Secretaries and United Nations representative.
The approach is to interview key people and job occupants.
:
- 2.3 Appointment of young member assistant to the Committee in accordance with the Decision 8., p. 6 Siga 2012: “Each member, every committee, when possible, should appoint a young member as an assistant.”

3. Achievement plans from the 1st of January 2014 until the next SIGA in New Zealand.

Finnish the job description for Peace Secretary and UN observers;

Develop the job description for the Youth committee.

4. Suggestions - most important for Servas International to develop:

4.1 on short term

- New homepage
- Make Servas International more visible at the internet

4.2 on long term

- Conflict resolution workshops
- Join with other organizations.

5. Suggestions to SI Exco focus extra on until SIGA2015.

ANNEX A - QUESTIONS TO NATIONAL PEACE SECRETARY AND UN OBSERVERS.

Suggestions by Alvany Santiago and Chris Jones

1. Would you please describe your activities as a.....?;
2. What is the main objective of the Peace Secretary work (or mission, vision), in your opinion?
3. How have you managed to fulfill the role as a Peace Secretary?
4. What challenges have you faced in doing this job?
5. How much time and effort they were able to devote to the job?
6. How much would be optimal?

To the key persons, we would ask:

1. In your opinion what is the National Peace Secretary's mission (or vision or main objectives) The same questions for UN Observers.
2. Please suggest their main activities.
3. What you suggest Servas should accomplish with the work of national Peace Secretary and Un Observers.

ANNEX B - UN OBSERVER JOB DESCRIPTION

SUGGESTIONS by Alvany Santiago e Danielle Serres (SI Peace Secretary)

Represent the interests of Servas, through the Peace Secretaries; I think it's a very important point to highlight strong cooperation between UN Observers and Peace Secretaries.

Attend UN assemblies this has to be more precise, let's work on it

Speak in debates, yes prepare written and oral statements, as we did last September at the HRC in Geneva, is very important. For this to be more effective, I believe we should know the agenda in advance to be able to make real focus statements, and to have time to contact other organisations who might be willing to co-sign our declarations

To submit proposals and amendments to Human Rights commissions. Ibid.

Send report of attendance and activities to Exco (define frequency). Every time some event/activity takes place

May I ask what kind of help they get from Servas? The Int Peace Sec is supposed to represent their interests, make their activities wide published, financial aid VERY limited ! I put forward a motion related to this at the last Distant Vote

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS

(aka SI News, International Newsletter)

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Greece

ACTIVITIES OVER 2012 & 2013

Two issues of Servas International News were produced in 2012 (Jan/Feb - 11 pages, May/June - 9 pages) and two issues (April/May - 22 pages, Nov/Dec - 24 pages) were produced in 2013. PDF files of the completed issues were submitted to Rene Gordon for upload to the Servas web site. After the PDF files have been uploaded and are available on the Servas web site an email promotional announcement is created and sent via email to Michael Silbert for distribution to all National Secretaries (those who have email addresses). National Secretaries are, in turn, are expected to forward those notices to all of their national members (who have email addresses) or otherwise notify their members of the existence of a new issue. We do not produce a printed copy of SI News. File copies, including fonts and images used in each issue is bundled and made available for any Servas member country who wishes to prepare the issue in their language. (Note: due to the current technical problems with the Servas web site we have made the 2014 issues of SI News available for download from the Greece-Servas.org web site and placed notices on the appropriate Facebook groups and page.)

The number of issues produced during a calendar year and the publication date is usually determined by how many stories/articles are submitted for publication. When there is a suitable volume for at least a 8 to 10 page issue we begin planning a layout using our best guess as to what the order and layout should be used. We are pretty much unsupervised, but always open to input from the Servas President who reviews the final draft.

Items we consider suitable for publication are anything that we think is of interest to the international Servas audience; International and country meetings/events announcements and reviews, travel stories, recent events,

internationally pertinent discussions, web news, ads, etc. We don't reprint other newsletters, or strictly personal issues. But in general, everything submitted so far has been appropriate for publication.

CONCERNS OVER THE LONG & SHORT TERM:

DISTRIBUTION OF SI NEWS:

We have asked Rene for data on how many times an issue of SI News has been accessed from the Servas web site. Apparently this information is not available. We do, however, have this data available from our Greece-Servas.org site for January (141 hits of the Nov/Dec issue, 44 hits of the April/May issue), February (73 hits for the Nov-Dec issue) and March (78 hits for the Nov/Dec issue, 6 hits for the April/May issue). Some members have indicated to me that they have never seen the newsletter or have never been informed by their National Secretary of publication. I believe many National Secretaries are either not receiving the email notices and/or are not forwarding the newsletter to all of their members. I would like to see the delivery of the newsletter (and all Servas International communication) be included as one of the responsibilities of the position of National Secretary (which would assume the compilation of a national email database for each country).

CONTENT ISSUES:

I would be delighted to publish more issues, but submissions come in slowly, sometimes without enough lead-time for the event date, or at the last minute. Often time-sensitive articles are too late for publication. But overall, the lack to submissions is our main limitation.

SUGGESTIONS:

Encourage National Secretaries and members to provide more articles/stories, and event information in a timely manner.

Create an international email database and make it available for better world-wide communication with National Secretaries and all members? (With an opt out option, of course)

Track download data of SI News issues to see if the newsletter is getting seen and if we need a better notification method.

But most important, provide a great web site for our members!

We enjoy producing SI News and value it's contribution to Servas. We also take the responsibility very seriously. I feel SI News is an important communication tool for the Servas organization. And it could be used so much better with better communication.

Sincerely,

Terry Stone

Dongwhan Song, AC, EA

Dong-whan Song

Gangnam-gu Seolleung-ro 72 gil 6-9 302-ho,

Seoul Korea

[+82117875691](tel:+82117875691)

dongwhany@gmail.com

1. China has 30 members, the 7th East Asia Meeting was held in mid-November 2013 at the Language Center inside Sun Yat Sen University, Guangzhou, China.

It was encouraging enough to make Servas China members united and become motivated.

Also it is good for China to recruit younger members, since the number is not large enough. The more members they have, the more often they will be able to send members abroad or accept travelers from abroad. Then they will broaden their knowledge and become more interested in Servas activity.

2. Hong Kong has 20 members, their EXCO is a troika system, not represented by a single Secretary. Three representatives are in charge of communication, membership and interview, and homepage or website. Of 20 hosts 18 are day hosts and 2 are hosts, so they can accept travelers from abroad. They issue a newsletter online regularly, and often meet at a café whenever they have travelers from abroad. They are also thinking of recruiting young members.
3. Japan has 281 members, as a result of *tsunami* Japan lost 20 members, they are thinking of organizing Servas Japan into an NGO in the near future so that they can broaden their activities.
4. Korea has 262 members, They set up 'Online host list update system' through our website. The members can access Servas Korea website and update their personal information online.

They issue a newsletter online twice in a year regularly since 2013. They held a national assembly and EXCO meeting four times. On other hand there were 40 regional meeting all over the country. They are also thinking of recruiting young members.

They also carrying out the SPRs(Servas Peace Riders) bicycle tour at DMZ (330Km riding with Servas Japan and China) on Oct. 3rd~6th.

5. Mongolia has 4 members, They worked as hard as they could to recruit new members making use of every chance they took.

SERVAS, MONGOLIA

	NAME	Education/profession	Age	F/M	WORK
1	HISHIG	Studied in Japan, Ph.D. Mathematician	44	F	Institute of Education Research, Ministry of Education, Deputy director
2	AMAR	Studied in South KOREA, Ph.D. Engineer	42	M	Ministry of Industry and Agriculture, specialist
3	DEEGII	Studies in Mongolia, Musician – traditional instrument	37	M	Education Department of Zavkhan province, specialist
4	SARAA	Studied in Singapore, Ph.D. Economist	41	F	National University of Mongolia, professor

Members of Servas Mongolia

6. Taiwan has 52 members, They (20 members) visited Confucian Temple and got a guide lesson arrangement in order that 20 members could be a good guide for foreign travelers in the future.
7. Mr. Masahiro Nishiyama resigned and Mr. Dong-whan Song, the former National Secretary Korea, was elected new Area Coordinator for our area.



The Inauguration Ceremony was held on 18th of January 2014 in Korea.

SI AREA COORDINATOR FOR MEXICO, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, COSTA RICA,
PANAMA AREA

Guatemala, April 2014.

To: Mr. Jonny Sågänger

President Servas International.

jonsag@gmail.com

1. Name and email address:

ADELA SEGURA

adelasegura@gmail.com

MEXICO, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, COSTA RICA, PANAMA AREA COORDINATOR

2. Main activities during the period September 2012 - December 2013.

My main activity has been is to keep in communication with National Secretaries of the area, Resending special notices, newsletters, invitations, etc, especially if they have to make some reports, remembering the deadlines, etc. and sending reports to Ann Greenhough, Servas Vice President about the situation with Nicaragua and El Salvador.

My opinion is that Servas Mexico, is very active, good collaborator sending information, responds all messages, very responsible, keeps communication with the committee and hosts. Have many travelers, they are very good hosts.

Guatemala, the NS is enthusiastic, keeps communication with the committee and hosts, re send all important information and notices to hosts, newsletters, etc., responds all messages, responsible, Make some reunions, but is difficult because some people live far and work, not everybody assist to reunions. Make promotion in university and social activities to find new members specially young . Is working to introduce the Host List to the Dolphin system, some members are very old and are changing their status to Day Hosts, not many incoming travelers, some outgoing travelers.

Honduras, NS keeps communication with committee and hosts, re send important notices to hosts, responds to messages, difficult to make reunions, very few incoming travelers, no outgoing travelers.

Costa Rica, very active members, the Nat. Secretary and committee organize social work to keep the communication with their members, they have bi-month reunions, they are good hosts, some outgoing and coming travelers, enthusiastic people, responds to all messages.

Panama, the NS is enthusiastic but have problems to keep members interested in Servas, resend all notices and newsletters, have reunions with to the members and committee,

Very few outgoin and incoming travelers, answers all messages, very responsible.

Nicaragua and El Salvador are inactive, I have been in communication with Ann Greenhough, Vice president, to report this, the old coordinator never answers messages, and doesn't make reports. I was calling to the host members of Nicaragua with the old host lists, but only one answer, but they don't have interest to continue with Servas. I am looking for another coordinator to start again the organization of Servas in Nicaragua.

In El Salvador we (members of Guatemala and Honduras) travel to start a group about 5 years ago, we paid our expenses, we made one reunion with the organizers and a group of people, but the coordinators didn't have time to make more reunions, they change their home, have small children and didn't keep the group together, now we have to start again. I will travel next 15th of May, to have a reunion with some people to see if we can reorganize the group and start Servas in El Salvador again. . The situation of Security is difficult, all this contribute that we don't have many travelers and money.

I always pay for all my expenses, we ACs, don't have any budget. I am asking to Ann Greenhough, if we can make a regional reunion this year, we had not have one Regional Reunion since long time ago.

3. what do you plan to achieve from the 1st of January 2014 until the next SIGA (which probably will take place during the second half of 2015:

The most important objective is to motivate the National Secretaries to find more hosts in their countries, organize group of young people, we are planning to make a Newsletter for the area and open a site for Central America in Facebook to keep in touch with each other.

4. what you think is most important for Servas International to develop :

* **on short term**, to develop the youth branch, to participate in the youth meetings.

* **on long term** :

We need to reorganize the groups in Nicaragua and El Salvador. I am working on it, but this countries are very difficult because the people don't travel often, they are afraid to be open and take strangers to their homes

5. If there's anything you would like SI Exco to focus extra on until SIGA2015

-The develop committee must help to the countries with not outgoing travelers, because we don't have income. We, the ACs, have to pay our own expenses if we want to meet the Nat. Secretaries or organize some activities.

We would like to have the opportunity to make one Area Reunion, we asked for it to the

Develop committee about 3 years ago, but it was not authorized.

Robert Mitchell

In terms of the archives in CA I have arranged with the administrators and their assistants to sort and evaluate the archival value of the materials. There are 110 document/office size boxes and three oversize boxes. Unfortunately many boxes contain many blank pages despite being marked otherwise. More problematic is the inclusion of personnel records that include social security, tax records and the like. The archives are available to the public. Some boxes have been marked according to subject matter such as minutes, et cetera, but not all. The Hoover staff at no cost to Servas will sort and evaluate archival value. No records will be destroyed rather questionable material will be sent to the US office for reconsideration, again at no cost to Servas. It is recommended that all future materials be carefully screened. Once this has been accomplished it will be possible to prepare the material for access online. Needless to say this will take time. I am very grateful for the offer of the Hoover to help us with this as they are truly the experts. I live 2 200 miles from the Hoover and given the budget issues for all involved it would be impossible for anyone other than a local to spend the weeks it would take to assess the current state of the materials. Once they are able to be placed on the online access an authorized person will be able to add material. At this point given the restrictions on the materials it is not known if they will be able to be placed on the SI site. The Hoover site however is available to all and that could be noted on the SI site.

When I have updates from the Hoover archivists I will provide that information. They indicated that the sort and evaluate process could take several months.

Robert Mitchell

Special report on the ServasOnline project

Update on modernization of Servas' website

The work with the ServasOnline (SOL) project to replace Servas International's current website on the Internet domain address www.servas.org has been a top priority since the current SI Exco was elected at SI General Assembly in 2012. I have assumed a special responsibility for the project in Exco.

The main activities have been to create a working team, benchmark other modern and well functioning websites and to handle a procurement process to find suitable companies to supply Servas with the services needed to build the new website.

I have reported about the major developments in the project through reports in the SI newsletter SI News and to the SI Internal Audit committee.

The SOL team – which has the formal name SOL Steering Committee Management Team (SOL SCMT)* – has carried out an elaborate procurement process of analysis and evaluation, where customer references have been checked and questions have been put forward to the selected companies for clarifications and for a fuller comprehension of the proposals.

The companies compete with their combination of price, performance, quality and project management skills.

The companies that have been chosen and approached by the SOL team for more in-dept scrutiny are all to be considered to be able to guarantee solid professional standard in their work and to be positioned in a price range that gives Servas, as a non profit organization, maximum value for the money that SI will invest in this important development project.

During the spring of 2014 the SOL team has entered into a period of contractualization. Once all the questionmarks have been cleared out Servas' International board, SI Exco, will sign one or more agreements with the successful proposer/proposers.

In parallel with the procurement process the SOL team has worked on the establishment of the support functions for the new website, searched for volunteers who would like to work with the new website during the start-up period and once it has been launched and is up and running on a day-to-day basis.

The SOL SCMT has during the most recent six months strengthened its communications channels and other ties with the SI Internet and Communications Team (SI ICT) as well as with the Dolphin Team. In the SI ICT team Mark Hahn and Michael Silbert, both from Canada as, are the key persons and the Dolphin Team consists of Rita Dessauvage from Belgium and Pablo Colangelo from Argentina.

SOL SCMT has also intensified the search for a web master who will be in charge of the content for servas.org group. The group is also looking for people who can work together with the web master. Ideally the group of web master assistants will come from around the world. Hopefully the new website will be administrated by persons on different continents around the world.

Matthew Pashkovkiy is currently the web master of the intermediary web page servas.org.

In due time a so called mock-up, static (not interactive) version of the new website will be presented. This will happened when the graphical design and some basic functionality on the website will be ready.

* The SOL Steering Committee Management Team (SOL SCMT) consists of the Servas members Matthew Pashkovkiy (Russia), Frederic Morizot and Bernard Andrieu (both from France) and myself as project sponsor.

Facts about the ServasOnline project

The investment in the new servas.org website will at least partly be financed with the so called ServasOnline levy, which is money that has been collected from Servas member groups according to a decision that was made at the Servas International General Assembly in Argentina in the year 2009 (SIGA2009). Alternative economic resources for SOL has been allocated in the SI budget for the three year period until 2015, when the next SI General Assembly will take place.

The SIGA2015 is EXCO's formal deadline to have completed the high priority SOL project, according to the SIGA2012 decisions. EXCO is convinced that the new website actually needs to be finished sooner, in order to prevent loss of existing members and to keep recruitment of new members on an acceptable level. But it's our responsibility as SI's international board to be both visionary and realistic.

If the new website will be finished and launched earlier than 2015, it is to be considered an unexpected but very, very happy and longed for happening.

ANNEX 2:

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR SI ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2011

The Internal Audit Committee made a review in accordance with Financial Operating Procedures (FOP) and generally accepted accounting policies, of the following statements presented by the Treasurer, Mirek Wasilewski to the Audit Committee on 10th February 2013:

- A. Income & Expenditure Statement of SI for the year ended 31st December, 2011.
- B. Balance Sheet of SI as of 31st December, 2011.
- C. Supporting Schedules and details to Accounts.
- D. Comparative Statement of SI Budget with Actuals.
- E. Notes to the above Accounts.

The internal audit committee finds that the accounting and representation of transactions in the above statements have been fair and true in stating the finances of Servas International, subject to the following observations:

1. There has been a considerable increase in Stamp receipts over the budgeted amount, being partly due to increase in revised stamp tariff and partly due to increase in the demand for stamps by the Servas Travellers.
2. The Servas On Line (SOL) collections have been marginally higher over the budgeted amount, but the Audit Committee has a concern regarding the SOL past years' outstanding amount of CHF 6957 from the member countries. The Committee recommends the EXCO and Treasurer continue to make efforts to collect this amount as soon as possible. The Audit Committee notes that as per the General Assembly (GA) decision at Poland, no further demand will be made on the member countries unless required in the future.
3. The Bank Interest Income has been marginally higher than the budgeted amount.
4. The total expenses incurred for the African Regional Meeting, which was integrated with the Youth Meeting held at Botswana Lula during 2011, were to be met from SI Budget to the extent of CHF 1400 from Area Meeting Budget and CHF 1800 from Youth Budget towards Pablo Chufeni's travel as per the minutes of the EXCO teleconference of 15th June 2011 and the balance amount to be met from Development Fund as per the approval given by the Convenor of Development Fund Committee of her mail of 16th June 2011 to the Treasurer and the Convenor of the African Regional Meeting. The Audit Committee notes that the expense claim statement was received by the Treasurer without any supporting invoices for expense, air travel or other miscellaneous expenses and these were approved and booked based on the expense statement submitted by the Convenor of the African Regional Meeting. SI Financial Operating Procedures (FOP) specifically provides that the Expense Statement should be supported by numbered Invoices, Bills and other documents evidencing expenses, in original, to be made available to the Treasurer within the stipulated period after the incurrence of the expenses.
5. Stamp dues relating to previous years namely 2008, 2009 and 2010 amounting to CHF 2093 is to be recovered as per details furnished by the book keeper. Necessary follow up is required to be made by the Treasurer or adjust the same while making payments, if any, to the defaulting member countries to avoid bank transfer fees and recover the due amount.
6. There are small amounts owing to past SI Officers and some amounts outstanding to be recovered from past and present SI Officers. EXCO shall take appropriate decisions on each of the amounts due, based on which the relevant accounting will be made in the books. Financial Operating Procedures (FOP) requires that the surplus money held by the SI Officer be deposited to the SI Bank Account immediately after completion of the event or the purpose for which the advance was taken.

7. Certification of the successful implementation of the Dolphin Host List System is yet to be received from the SI Information Communication and Technology (ICT) team although, based on verbal confirmation, Dolphin was capitalized in the books during 2010 and depreciation charges for 2010 and 2011 have been made in the accounts. The Audit Committee recommends that the Treasurer follow up with ICT to get the necessary certification as soon as possible.

8. Progress updates on the new Servas On Line (SOL) program are not available and there is no official report on the progress of SOL activity. The member countries who have contributed towards this project have a right to know the progress made on SOL development, its current status and expected date of completion and its implementation. The Audit Committee recommends EXCO follow up with the SOL Project committee and publish the report of the work done, its status and the expected completion date for the common benefit.

9. Financial Operating Procedures (FOP) require the various committees of SI, appointed at the GA, to submit reports stating the activities undertaken and completed during the year for which budget allocation has been made. Reports of the committees were not available for review. The Audit Committee recommends that EXCO follow up with the various committees for timely submission of their respective reports within the stipulated period for Audit.

10. The Registration of Servas International (SI) is of paramount importance and this has to be taken up with utmost vigour and urgency since the Latina GA resolved to move SI bank accounts to a bank having ethical practices. SI is eligible to claim refund of tax credits on bank interest income from the Swiss Tax authorities. Without proper submission of the Registration certificate, neither claim for refund from Swiss authorities nor a move to ethical bankers is possible. The Audit committee recommends EXCO follow up on this matter with seriousness and utmost urgency to get the Registration of SI completed as soon as possible.

Signed: L V Subramanian - Convenor
Phyllis Chinn – Member
Emmanuel Kakinada – Member

Dated 21st March 2013

ANNEX 3:

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR SI ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2012

The Internal Audit Committee made a review in accordance with Financial Operating Procedures (FOP) and generally accepted accounting policies, of the following statements presented by the Treasurer, Mirek Wasilewski to the Audit Committee on 31st August 2013:

- A. Income & Expenditure Statement of SI for the year ended 31st December, 2012.
- B. Balance Sheet of SI as of 31st December, 2012.
- C. Supporting Schedules and details to Accounts.
- D. Notes to the above Accounts.

The internal audit committee finds that the accounting and representation of transactions in the above statements have been fair and true in stating the finances of Servas International, subject to the following observations:

1. There has been no movement in Development Fund since last year. The audit committee suggests that a report from DFC Development Fund Committee be made available detailing the activities done during the year and the relevant costs incurred for the same.
2. SOL collections during the year 2012 was CHF 14378 and collections till end of 2012 CHF 42675 which is quite commendable despite the fact there were many member countries who were unwilling to make the SOL payments. It was also decided at the Poland GA that no further demands would be made on the member countries except collection of the demands already made. In view of this, the audit committee suggests that EXCO issue a status report on SOL and its development done so far and also the expected time schedule by which the beta version of SOL would be tested. It is also to be noted that the entire value of the Dolphin Project will be amortized by end 2013.
3. The Advance receipts show a suspense amount of CHF 1000 received at the bank on 21/5/2012. The audit committee suggests that the Treasurer check with the bankers as to the nature and source of this remittance so that proper accounting for this transaction could be made.
4. The Web Hosting contract provided payment till August 2012 and no subsequent payment for renewal of this contract was available. The audit committee suggests that a provision for 4 months, amounting to CHF 500, be made, based on the prior year contractual rates agreed upon with the service provider.
5. The Treasurer has physical custody of CHF 50617.64 of Servas funds in his personal capacity in both cash and personal bank accounts. This amount represents about 49% of the Servas gross receipts for year 2012. The that FOP (Financial Operating Procedures) stipulates that Servas Officers are required to refund unused advances to the Servas bank account immediately after the completion of the event or work for which the advance was taken. The audit committee notes this violation to FOP clause and requests EXCO reviews this and takes suitable remedial process to restore this amount to Servas' Bank account. The committee also suggests that EXCO include more Servas officers as signatories to the bank account to avoid such huge withdrawals necessitated by non-availability of such officers for approval and payments.
6. Advance to Servas Officers include amounts of CHF 601 to EF Meamble of Cameroun and CHF 601 to Sahadatu of Sierra Leone representing air fare funding support for attending GA after EXCO approval meeting the funding criteria. Since these officers did not attend the GA, the same need to be recovered from them. The audit committee suggests that EXCO along with Treasurer review these cases and make the necessary efforts for recovery and explain why only 500 Ch is requested in refund when 601 CH was advanced.

7. The Stamp fees for the year 2012 are similar to that of 2011 but the outstanding updated status as of 4th May 2013 shows CHF 31376 of which the significant defaulting member countries are:

Hungary CHF 1050,
Britain CHF 1237,
France CHF 13010,
Italy CHF 9683,
Netherlands CHF 1353.

The audit committee suggests that the Treasurer conducts a regular follow up with these countries to ensure recovery of the pending amounts. There are some receivables from 2008 onwards which could have been possibly adjusted against the payment made to the delegates of the defaulting countries, thereby reducing the stamp receivable amounts. The audit committee suggests that in the future, any travel advanced extended to representatives of countries owing past stamp fees or SOL fees shall be reduced by the amount owed by the member country.

8. Net surplus of CHF 26563 arose from the GA at Poland after considering all expenses and adjusting the accumulated provision of CHF 75000. The audit committee suggests that EXCO confirm the venue of the next GA at 2015 and mandates the provisioning of GA expenses of CHF 37500 per year from 2013 onwards. The audit committee also suggests that the host country for the next GA explore the possibility of using an international travel agent for all SI funded travel and for assistance in obtaining visas so that SI is not in the position of needing to recover funds from representatives who are unable to attend the GA.

9. Interest from Bank Deposits for the year is CHF 508 as against last year of CHF 836, owing to the substantial withdrawals made for the GA Poland.

10. The comparative statement of the Budget versus Actuals for the year 2012 as required under FOP has not been submitted. The audit committee suggests that the same be presented showing the expense variance statement.

11. The audit committee requests that EXCO give a status update on the matter of registration of SI as an NGO and the actions taken so far.

Signed: L V Subramanian - Convenor
Phyllis Chinn – Member
Emmanuel Kakinada – Member

Dated 7th October 2013

Annex 4: Sept 2013 UN HRC Oral Statement

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

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Servas International Oral Statement

On the occasion of the 24th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva

September 10, 2013

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address you during this session.

Servas International is a NGO founded in 1949, serving tolerance and mutual understanding in more than 100 countries of the world. We support the exchange of people of all ages, genders and origins to fight prejudices and to establish friendships. The essential tool for promoting peace is the Servas program for hospitality and hospitality exchange. In particular, our youth programs empower children forming the next generation.

We want to encourage you to support the civil society groups that are connecting people from all continents of the world, as we are convinced that only a global teamwork can lead to enduring peace, as the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recently said it in his video message on the occasion of World Humanitarian day.

There are too many armed conflicts in the world. We want to express our hope that all parties come to

the result that violence cannot lead to peace. In particular we would like to remember the situation in Egypt and Syria. It is our wish to express our deep sympathy with all those who strive for peace in regions that are facing violence. In particular protection of children rights is critical. We strongly regret that our exchange programs decreased in those regions. We urge you all to help to reestablish the possibility to host and to travel safely to every region of your countries.

Formal and informal education on Human Rights is the key to mutual understanding. We all know that there will be no peace without respect for human rights. For this reason and thanks to our experiences in the field of peace building, we encourage you, Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives, to do your best to support the implementation of Human Rights in your field of responsibility and to assist others on their way to rule of law.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Jonny Sågänger

SI President

Danielle Serres

SI Peace Secretary

Magnus Adams

SI Peace Secretary Assistant

Annex5: November 2013 DV Motion

MOTION EXCO – 003 -2013.

To comply with our values of peace, each Servas member country should make every effort to have a National Peace Secretary elected and/or Peace Committee, and have it listed in the Key persons Dolphin section. Also in case of having a national webpage or other media, each Servas member country should keep record and publish UN peace related activities, most notably in countries where there are Servas International representatives at a UN venue, so as to support their efforts in any feasible way.

Annex 6: UN Observers and Nat Peace Secretaries Job description drafts

I. National Peace Secretary Draft Job Description

Background

Servas International Peace Secretary encourages Servas National Groups to develop strategies and action plans for Servas outreach and cooperation with other organizations with similar values and goals, promoting Servas values including tolerance, open mindedness, building friendship, peace, and nonviolence. The SI Peace Secretary encourages Servas National Groups to nominate National Peace Secretaries and share peace activities with all Servas members. National groups are encouraged to report regularly on peace activities in their country to the SI Peace Secretary who then distributes the information widely to all national groups.

National Peace Secretaries should:

Provide information about Servas to other organizations, and maintain contact with related organizations. Provide for cooperation and exchange of information with other peace organizations.

Seek to establish, expand, and maintain a network of Peace contacts. Encourage the establishment of local peace committees wherever possible.

Encourage liaison with other peace organizations, and arrange representation in such organizations when appropriate. Arrange representation of Servas at peace conferences, where possible and beneficial.

Provide advice and guidance to the National President regarding co-operation with and contributions to other groups. Advise the Board and the Annual Meeting on peace issues.

Write articles for the national newsletter regarding Peace Activities and pass on information to the Servas International Newsletter. Contribute Articles to Servas International News and national Newsletter.

Provide information for websites about coming events and activities involving Peace

Establish and maintain communications with Servas International Peace Sec. and other National Peace Secretaries.

Work in close collaboration with SI Peace Secretary.

Support the UN delegates when there is a UN venue in the country, or when a UN event is held in the country.

Publicize International Day of Peace to make the public aware of this annual event. If necessary join with other Peace groups to celebrate.

If possible arrange workshops on non-violent conflict resolution and discussion groups or film nights.

II. UN observers/representatives Draft Job Description

Background

Servas International, described as « *an international, non-governmental, multicultural peace association run by volunteers in over 100 countries. Founded in 1949 by Bob Luitweiler as a peace movement, Servas International is a non-profit organization working to build understanding, tolerance and world peace* », has been granted consultative status at ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council), in 1973.

What is ECOSOC?

From the beginning, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has been the main entry point into the UN system for NGOs. ECOSOC remains the only main UN body with a formal framework for NGO participation. In 1946, 41 NGOs were granted consultative status by the council; by 1992 more than 700 NGOs had attained consultative status and the number has been steadily increasing ever since to more than 3,400 organizations today. NGOs may contribute to a number of activities, including information dissemination, awareness raising, development education, policy advocacy, joint operational projects, participation in intergovernmental processes and in the contribution of services and technical expertise. NGOs have a mandate to disseminate UN information.

What means consultative status at ECOSOC?

An NGO with consultative status can:

- *Attend international conferences and events*
- *Make written and oral statements at these events*
- *Organize side events*
- *Enter United Nations premises*
- *Have opportunities to network and lobby.*

As an NGO with consultative status, we may have up to 5 representatives with annual passes in each of 3 UN venues: NYC, Geneva (Human Rights Council) and Vienna. Our president also can obtain an annual pass, valid until 31 December of each year. One of these representatives is main rep. and can obtain short term passes for Servas local members or travelers wishing to visit UN premises or attend sessions.

People interested in becoming volunteers for SI at the UN would greatly benefit from such guidance. And for Servas International, it is also very important that there are some guidelines for people representing Servas International.

UN observers/representatives should:

- be familiar with human rights, UN structure and goals;
- get all useful documentation and information of sessions/events in advance so as to be aware of time and deliberations of the sessions interesting for Servas ; and disseminate that info to Servas community;
- attend sessions/events regularly;

- establish contacts with other NGOs within the UN context;
- promote Servas as a peace organization;
- contribute to the work of UN bodies, e.g. Human Rights Commission (HRC), Servas coordinating work of a group of NGOs in Mexico to write a UN declaration regarding indigenous communities, ect.
- join oral or written statements of NGOs and/or prepare (together with SI President and SI Peace Secretary) written and/or oral statements;
- at the end of the session/event, communicate reports about their action in writing to SI Peace Secretary, who will then share with EXCO, and Servas Community (e.g. SI News, websites, ect.);
- be a mentor / contact person for any SI officer wishing to attend UN;
- English recommended, other languages used at the UN welcomed.

INTELLIGENT ROAD MAP (IRM)

SENTIERI PER LA PACE E NON VIOLENZA / PATHWAYS TO PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

The goal of this project is to offer all Servas travellers the possibility of coming into contact with meaningful experiences committed to building a nonviolent society which are taking place in various geographical areas.

This will stimulate all those involved in working for a nonviolent future and will respond to their wish to meet and exchange with other people who have the same engagement.

NONVIOLENCE for us means a relationship (within ourselves, with the others and with the environment) based on solidarity, sharing, cooperation, constructive conflict solutions in the awareness and respect of differences..

CATEGORIES to be involved and presented on a separate LIST which will be attached to the Servas National Host List

- a) Documentation Centres, State or private Centres and Institutions involved in nonviolence in various fields, to whom Servas travellers can address in order to have information about experiences and activities taking place in those areas.
- b) Groups (Associations, Charitable Institutions, Cooperatives etc...) that work for the:
 1. Safeguard, knowledge and enhancement of the natural heritage.
 2. Promotion of natural, organic and fair trade products (where the commercial aspect is also a cultural research)
 3. Development of the community/ies in the area (meant as development of social relationships and cooperative education. Individual skills in handling nonviolent relationships in private and social life are developed and strengthened)
 4. Insight groupwork (where groups of people work on searching spiritual values connected to nonviolence)
 5. Solidarity, development of participatory empowerment and improvement of life conditions in developing countries.

P.S.: IMPORTANT

The following groups or organizations will not be included in the IRM:

- Partisan organizations or political parties
- Religious organizations
- Organizations not run democratically
- Organizations where there is not free admittance

This is the final document of a specific meeting IRM held among Servas Italy, Turkey, Pakistan in Istanbul, July 2007

From SI News June/July 2014

A New Logo For A Stronger Servas Federation

By Jonny Sagänger, President, Servas International
(With special thanks to Michael Johnson, Canada
Newsletter editor, for providing background material about

the history of the Servas logo)

*“A chain is only as strong
as its weakest link.”*

This idiomatic expression can be well applied to the current situation for Servas International. The phrase demonstrates the importance of teamwork and that everyone’s working together at equal levels towards a common goal*. At the moment the temporary website on our Internet domain servas.org is one of the weakest links in the Servas movement. Another weak point is the fragmented identity. Servas Switzerland pointed this weakness out in a motion that was passed with 46 votes for and 0 against at the SI General Assembly 2012. Moreover, it would be useful to make the various Servas web sites offer the same information about the core values and aims of Servas and to encourage the sharing of web site technology, to enable groups with limited resources to develop their own web sites. In searching for the name “Servas” in Facebook there are over 100 fan pages with “Servas” in the name. There are also more than 100 Facebook discussion groups with “Servas” in the title.

A Google web search brings up over 4.5 million results.

A Bing web search brings up almost 400,000 results.

The point is that it becomes very difficult for someone who is not already part of the Servas family to distinguish an actual Servas member country or group from one with a similar name that may have nothing to do with Servas International.

A strong identifying feature such as a common logo design can help make that clear.

At this point well over 20 different Servas logos – accompanied with many different slogans – are being used around the world. On the front page of this newsletter you can find a collection of the myriad of logos.

Beside the country specific and innovative logos, quite a few people associate Servas with the image of a stylized globe and an open door. That logo has its origins in the 1960's – or even earlier – when the main elements were a door to a globe “north pole” map plus a laurel wreath and the text “Servas Peacebuilders – open doors for travelers to homes and hearts in 20 countries”.

This concept evolved into a group of six meeting at a table, possibly representing six continents. Over time the group of people was reduced to four and the table disappeared. The logo has then been simplified and redesigned over time but the basic ingredients; the open door, a globe and four people, have remained.

This logo has been used frequently by SI Exco and SI officers in different committees and associated groups.

Some think our logo looks like fish in a net, other see four people behind bars. Many people have questioned why the logo doesn't contain any element of peace, for example a dove — a symbol of peace and the core target and basis for all activities in Servas.

SI Exco is well aware of the fact that changing a logo is both a practical and emotional issue. For some people the Servas logo is “sacred” materia.

SI Exco has come to the conclusion that the integrated chain of member groups and countries can be strengthened with a common logo design.

Therefore a new logo design, which was recommended and approved by SI Exco at a meeting in March this year,

has developed and presented.

The basic logo contains doves to symbolize peace and the name Servas International.

The addition of the 5 dots represent

the 5 inhabited continents as recognized by the Olympic organization.

The basic elements can be used by individual member groups and countries together with country specific features that will be provided for in a "logo-kit".

The national board of Servas Canada has already decided to start using the new logo on their website. Servas Sweden is discussing whether or not to replace their existing logo with the new one.

It's Exco's hope that more member groups will follow suit, for maximum exposure and impact when the new international website will be launched before the general assembly in New Zealand in 2015.

Would you like to be a piloting country for the new SI logo?

Please express your interest in an email to president@servas.org.

**Servas International is an international, non-profit, non-governmental federation of national Servas groups, encompassing an international network of hosts and travellers. The purpose of the network is to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by providing opportunities for personal contacts among people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities. (Servas International Statutes 2012)*

Past and present logos used by SI:

1960 Peacebuilders



1970 People Meeting



1980 Simplified



The Basic Servas Logo *with or without the circle*



The addition of the 5 dots represent the 5 inhabited continents as recognised by the Olympic organization.

The basic elements can be used by individual member groups and countries together with country specific features that are provided for in a "logo-kit".

The new Servas logo can be used in many different layout and color variations. Below are just a few examples.



FACTS ABOUT THE NEW SERVAS LOGO

The current Servas logo was created many years ago. Over time several Servas member countries have abandoned that logo for designs of their own. Today over 20 designs represent the image of Servas presenting an overall lack of visual unity and an inconsistency throughout the organization.

A logo is a visual representation that helps define the personality of a nongovernmental organization, movement, company or other organized bodies.

It should look professional, present the proper image of the organization, and should be unique and memorable. A logo should be a unifying element that sets an organization apart and lets it stand out from others that are similar.

With a new Servas web site on the horizon there is no better time to reestablish Servas' position as a global, non-profit organization with a long tradition of promoting a more peaceful world using hospitality exchange as it's core feature.

ABOUT THE DESIGN

This proposed new Servas Logo was developed over several months by two very experienced designers who are also Servas Members. Many designs from similar and competing organizations, as well as the many designs

developed by Servas member countries, were reviewed for reference and, of course, the current goals for the future of Servas were considered.

What's the image all about? Is it hands? Is it doves? Well, it's both and it's all in how viewer wants to see it. Doves, of course, are symbolic of peace and the grasping hands suggest meeting, greeting, friendship, and the forming of new relationships. It's a symbol that's both unique and memorable.

The logotype for SERVAS is a modified version of Bodega. It was selected for it's simplicity, clean lines and it's feeling of strength without being overbearing.

The five dots represent the five inhabited continents - similar to the rings of the Olympic symbol.

Why orange? Orange is generally considered a warm and joyful color.

In Western cultures orange is thought of as "welcoming", "affordable", and a sign of "harvest". In Eastern cultures orange is a sign of "happiness", "spirituality". In India orange is a "sacred" color. Orange can also convey positive connotations such as "wisdom", "energy" and "playfulness". The right color balance was critical. Too red and it's becomes strong and dynamic. Too yellow and it appears soft and passive.

Why green? Green, very much a color of nature, represents "new birth", "spring", "growth", something to which we think all Servas members can relate.

It is hoped that members will accept this new design but most of all our member countries are encouraged to begin thinking about working together for a more unified visual identity for Servas. We believe the future of Servas depends on it.

PLEASE NOTE: The new Servas logo will be made available in a variety of file formats, layout options and sizes. Information and download details will be provided soon to all

Servas National Secretaries.

Servas International



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