



MOTION FORM

FOR SERVAS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (SIGA) 2025

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

Voting at SI Distant Vote to be made compulsory for all Servas Member Groups (eligible to vote)

2. Date and place for this motion.

October 2025 at SIGA 2025 - Dijon France

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

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

SI Exco

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

We propose that SIGA 2025 approves that (one or more goals and/or actions):

- Participation in SI Distant Vote to be made compulsory for all Servas Member Groups.
- It is clarified that, Servas Member groups who go to the Distant Voting site and register their abstention by choosing the Abstain option, shall also be treated as having participated in the Distant Vote.
- If a Servas Member Group fails to participate in a SI Distant Vote, then that Servas Member Group shall be treated as ineligible for SI funding for participation in the next Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA).

Please note that SIGA 2025 must be able to vote YES, NO or ABSTAIN on a SIGA proposal.

5. Implications on SI Statutes 2024. The SI Statutes are accessible on the internet here:

<https://servas.org/administration-archive>

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

Yes.

If the answer is yes, please:

5A) Copy the part of the SI statutes that you suggest should be amended

5B) Write the exact proposed new wording in the SI Statutes here (new wording in **red text**):

5A)

Excerpt from SI Statutes (2024)

VIII Voting at Meetings

- 1) All decisions of the General Assembly or the SI Executive Committee (except votes on the dissolution of Servas International, or an amendment to, or replacement of, the Statutes) shall be taken by majority vote of the persons voting. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.
- 2) Voting procedure shall be made clear to all delegates before voting takes place. The right exists for any delegate to ask for a secret vote on any issue.
- 3) Only delegates from member groups which have met all of their financial obligations to Servas International within six (6) months of the due date are allowed to vote.
- 4) In order to retain its voting rights at the GA, a member country must have published a host list not older than 2 years and must have submitted an annual report for at least one of the two previous years.
- 5) A delegate attending the General Assembly in more than one capacity shall have only one vote, except in the case of proxy voting in elections.
- 6) Only those delegates attending the General Assembly in person shall be permitted to vote.
- 7) The voting process shall include three voting options for each motion, "support/yes", "against/no" and "abstain". "Abstentions" shall not be counted as a vote for or against the motion, except as required in Sections IX Dissolution and X Amendment of Statutes.
- 8) The minutes shall record the number of delegates voting for, voting against, and abstaining.

IX Distant Voting.

- 1) The member groups of Servas International may make decisions affecting Servas International between meetings of the General Assembly using the following Distant Voting process.
- 2) Each member group of Servas International shall have one vote on each motion to be decided by the Distant Voting process. Votes may be cast by post mail or electronically using a verifiable voting process.
- 3) The Distant Voting process shall not be used to amend the Statutes or to vote on the dissolution of Servas International.
- 4) In each calendar year between each General Assembly at least one Distant Vote shall be held to vote on the annual accounts, auditor's report and any changes to the budget.

- 5) The Distant Voting process may be used to vote on:
- a) matters to be decided before the next meeting of the General Assembly;
 - b) a motion to suspend or remove from office any officer of Servas International;
 - c) the election of officers to fill SI Executive Committee or other ServasInternational vacancies by secret vote;
 - d) motions arising from decisions of the General Assembly.

6) No later than two months after a General Assembly the SI Executive Committee shall publish a schedule of proposed Distant Votes up to the next General Assembly. The closing date for the votes shall be determined as follows:

- a) the first Distant Vote cannot be earlier than six months after the General Assembly;
- b) the next Distant Votes shall be at least four and no more than eight months after the preceding Distant Vote;
- c) the last Distant Vote cannot be later than six months before the next General Assembly.

A scheduled Distant Vote shall be cancelled if no motions have been received.

7) A motion for inclusion in the next Distant Vote may be submitted to the President when requested by at least one tenth of the member groups (represented by their National Secretaries), or by any member of the SI Executive Committee. All motions submitted by member groups must be sent to the President at least four months before the scheduled closing date for the vote to be included in a Distant Vote.

8) In addition to Clause 7, the General Assembly may specifically authorise a committee or working group to prepare and submit motions to be voted on by the Distant Voting process.

9) The Distant Voting process shall include three voting options for each motion, "support/yes", "against/no" and "abstain", and that abstain votes shall not be counted as a vote for or against the motion.

10) Resolutions to be decided by the Distant Voting process as well as the voting procedure to be used must be distributed to member groups in writing at least three months before the closing date for the vote.

11) Motions shall be declared adopted as if they have been passed by a meeting of the General Assembly if they get a double majority:

- a) when the majority of the votes cast are "support/yes",
- b) AND when the "support/yes" vote is at least four tenths of the number of member groups allowed to vote in the Distant Vote.

12) The procedures for the conduct of the Distant Voting process shall be governed by the Servas Regulations for Distant Voting. The Servas Regulations for Distant Voting may be amended or replaced by a majority vote of the General Assembly."

5B)

First proposed amendment of the SI Statutes (2024):

VIII Voting at Meetings

- 1) All decisions of the General Assembly or the SI Executive Committee (except votes on the dissolution of Servas International, or an amendment to, or replacement of, the Statutes) shall be taken by majority vote of the persons voting. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.
- 2) Voting procedure shall be made clear to all delegates before voting takes place. The right exists for any delegate to ask for a secret vote on any issue.
- 3) **Only delegates from member groups which have met all of their financial obligations to Servas International within six (6) months of the due date and have also participated in all the Distant Votes held since the last General Assembly, shall be eligible to vote.**
- 4) In order to retain its voting rights at the GA, a member country must have published a host list not older than 2 years and must have submitted an annual report for at least one of the two previous years.
- 5) A delegate attending the General Assembly in more than one capacity shall have only one vote, except in the case of proxy voting in elections.
- 6) Only those delegates attending the General Assembly in person shall be permitted to vote.
- 7) The voting process shall include three voting options for each motion, "support/yes", "against/no" and "abstain". "Abstentions" shall not be counted as a vote for or against the motion, except as required in Sections IX Dissolution and X Amendment of Statutes.
- 8) The minutes shall record the number of delegates voting for, voting against, and abstaining.

Second proposed amendment of the SI Statutes (2024) (additional text in red after point 12):

- 11) Motions shall be declared adopted as if they have been passed by a meeting of the General Assembly if they get a double majority:
 - a) when the majority of the votes cast are "support/yes",
 - b) AND when the "support/yes" vote is at least four tenths of the number of member groups allowed to vote in the Distant Vote.
- 12) **It is compulsory for Servas Member Groups to participate in SI Distant Voting.**
- 13) The procedures for the conduct of the Distant Voting process shall be governed by the Servas Regulations for Distant Voting. The Servas Regulations for Distant Voting may be amended or replaced by a majority vote of the General Assembly."

6. Explanation for the motion. The motivation must contain a clear description of the benefit of this proposal for the Servas community; its member groups, individual members and Servas International as an international non-governmental organisation. It should also contain information on how it is different from current practice. It should indicate how the proposal is intended to be implemented. Finally, the motion should explain the metrics that will be used to measure benefits from this proposal.

SIGA 2025 should approve this motion because (one or more motivations):

- The Authorised Voter of each Servas Member Group (SI MG) is responsible for casting the vote in a Servas International Distant Vote (SI DV), and thus be the voice of his/her Servas Member Group.
- According to the experience of the SI Distant Vote Administrator and the SI General Secretary (2022-2025), not all the Authorised Voters participate in any SI Distant Vote. This amounts to dereliction of duty on the part of the Authorised Voter and the executive committee of that Member Group.
- This SIGA motion suggests that participation in a Distant Vote be made compulsory for all Servas Member Groups.
- Even if a Servas Member Group wants to abstain from voting, the Authorised Voter should record the abstention by participating in the SI Distant Vote process. Since all Servas Member Groups have at least ten individual members and the voting remains open for several days, it should not be difficult to find someone who can vote on behalf of the Member Group even if the the originally designated Authorised Voter is unable to vote due to sickness or some other unavoidable circumstances. In such an eventuality, the National Secretary/President of the Member Group can nominate a different person as its Authorised Voter.
- **If a Servas Member Group fails to participate in a SI Distant Vote, then that SI Member Group should be treated as ineligible for SI funding for participation in the next Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA).**

7. SI budget implications

Describe what financial resources are needed to accomplish the aims of this motion.

Use the money currency Swiss francs, which is the currency used for SI's budget:

None.

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

- SI Exco and the SI Distant Vote Administrator (SI DVA) will need to spend time to inform the SI Member Groups about the new regulation about compulsory voting at SI DVs.

9. Proposed timeline/timetable for accomplishing the aims of the proposal?

The proposed action should ideally:

- Start on this date: 2025–10–08.
- Be accomplished on this date: 2025–12–31.

The person(s) or group(s) will report the results of this motion to SI Exco.

- SI Distant Vote Administrator (SI DVA) for the mandate period 2025–2028.
- SI General Secretary (SI GS) for the mandate period 2025–2028.

10. Which person(s) writes/write this motion and is/are responsible for the proposal?

Person 1

Name:

- Jonny Sågänger

ServasOnline registration ID (see your ServasOnline profile on servas.org):

- ...

Functions/titles in Servas:

- SI General Secretary (2022–2025)

Email address(es):

- saganger.servas@gmail.com

Mobile number(s) (Signal, WhatsApp etc) and other communication channels (if applicable):

- +46 70 620 28 43
- ...

Person 2

Name:

- ...

ServasOnline registration ID (see your ServasOnline profile on servas.org):

- ...

Functions/titles in Servas:

- ...

Email address(es):

- ...

Mobile number(s) (Signal, WhatsApp etc) and other communication channels (if applicable):

- ...
- ...

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

• ...

For SI Exco Use Only:

12. SI Exco comment on this motion

Date: 2025-MONTH-DAY

Comment:

For Minute Taker Use Only:

13. Amendments (Passed or defeated)