



MOTION FORM

FOR SERVAS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (SIGA) 2025

UPDATED: AUGUST 2025

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

SI Statutes updates for clarity of definitions, terminology, and membership rules

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 the creation of an elected committee of three people to comprehensively review and update the SI statutes.

Servas member groups and key persons should nominate qualified members to be on this committee. A qualified member is defined as a person who is well versed in SI statutes and procedures, and has good control of English to present the changes in clear and concise language.

The committee shall have the mandate to consult with all member groups to identify and review changes to the statutes.

The committee will be elected from the members that are nominated.

The mandate of this team shall be to create the proposed updated SI statutes, clearly showing a list of suggested changes.

The proposed updated statutes should be presented for vote to amend the statutes at an Online General Assembly to be held on or before November 2026.

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? 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:

5A)

5B)

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 the current SI statutes are unclear in several areas, and are missing some key definitions. Also, there are references to systems, technology and processes that are obsolete. The statutes need clarification in many areas to address these changes.

Examples include:

- Previous use of “Country Group”, or “National Group” was determined to be problematic due to various geopolitical issues. These terms are no longer being used, and instead we are known simply as Servas Groups, or Servas Member Groups (with voting rights). Many groups are still organized around national borders, but it is not necessary. Removing the word “national” from references to Servas Groups will make the statutes consistent in their current usage when referring to Servas Groups.
- Members, Servas Groups, and other related terms are in common use, but the definition of these and their responsibilities has not been clearly specified. The updated statutes should clarify what each term means, and the obligations and responsibilities of each.
- The term “Host” was originally an entry in the Host List, and one or more members could be listed as part of this entry. It is defined in the current statutes as “One host is defined as one household sharing the same home address.” Unfortunately, many people think of a Host as a person which is not correct as defined by our statutes. Using the term “Hosting Household” clearly states the intention, that a household that will provide hosting. Note that there may be one or more people participating as part of this *Hosting Household*.
- One of the requirements to be a Member Group is to have at least “10 hosts” (today known as 10 hosting households). This was originally defined when paper host list books were published, and we wanted at least 10 entries in the book. This is in fact a very low

number for a group to be a standalone group with voting rights. Today, we have Servas Areas, where small regions can be grouped together and work together with support from others. Note that a Host is not a member, but rather what was originally a listing in the host list, where multiple people may be listed.

Also, it may be worth discussion if the requirement should be based on members (people) instead of Hosting Households.

The following is an example subset of the changes that is recommended around the definitions of membership and group responsibilities. Note that this is not an exhaustive list of the changes to be required.

II Membership

1) An individual **member** of Servas is a person that has joined a Servas Group and is in good standing with the group. This includes being interviewed, agreeing to membership and data security policies, and is in good standing with any membership fees or other requirements as specified by their Servas Group.

Each **member** is responsible to keep their member profile accurate, including a true representation of themselves, including:

- their true name, or one that is commonly used for identification
- a true image that allows others to identify them
- current contact information, including email, phone numbers, etc
- other information in their profile

Two or more members may be associated as a **household**, allowing the members to do several activities within Servas together, including administering their profiles, provide hosting, or travelling.

Members of the household may provide one or more addresses where they can optionally provide hosting (an overnight stay), or day hosting (activities but not an overnight stay). A **Hosting Household** is defined as one household sharing the same home address that provide hosting, or day hosting.

2) Individual Servas members are part of a **Servas Group**, which provides all administrative processes, including:

- membership administration including verifying member profiles
- application and interview processes for new members joining the group
- membership renewal
- member travel and hosting
- group level activities and programs
- one or more **Main Contacts** responsible for all official communication

A **Servas Area** provides the same administrative processes as the Servas Group, but the administrators may be provided by members outside of this group.

3) A **Servas Member Group** is a Servas Group that can have representation and voting rights within Servas International. A group may be proposed for membership by

- a) direct application by the Servas Group; or
- b) recommendation from a Servas International Area Coordinator or Committee; or
- c) invitation from the General Assembly.

The obligations of a Servas Member Group include:

- a National Secretary
- 2 other identified contact persons
- at least one identified contact with Servas International
- 20 or more Hosting Households
- paying fees to Servas International in a timely manner, as specified by the due date
- submitting annual reports to Servas International
- any changes in the National Secretary and/or other key people shall be reported to Servas International within 7 days, and update the official records
- following the regulations and procedures as required by Servas International

Except under special circumstances, a Member Group will lose its Member Groups status in Servas International by majority vote of the General Assembly if

- a) it has been without a functioning National Secretary for two consecutive years;
or
- b) it has fewer Hosting Households than in subsection 1) above for two consecutive years;
or
- c) it does not fulfil its obligations for two consecutive years.

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 unless the committee elected needs a budget

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

- None

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

The proposed action should ideally:

- Start on this date: October 2025 - immediately after approval at SIGA in Dijon
- Be accomplished on this date: November 2026

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

- The elected committee will manage these changes

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

Person 1

Name:

- James Leask

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

- UID 4064

Functions/titles in Servas:

- co-SI Membership and Technology Secretary (SI-MTS)

Email address(es):

- jim.leask@servas.org

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

- WhatsApp 613-297-4436

- ...

- ...

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.

- SI Exco

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)