



# Pre-SICOGA NEWSLETTER

Connecting People for **Peace** –  
Working **Together** for Solutions

## SICOGA

is Starting from  
3<sup>rd</sup> Oct



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## WHAT IS A SICOGA AND WHO CAN ATTEND IT?

SICOGA stands for Servas International Conference and General Assembly. It is the most important global gathering of the Servas community, held approximately every three years. SICOGA brings together Servas members from all over the world to share experiences, explore cultural understanding, and discuss the future direction of the organization. It is being held this year **from October 3 – 9, in Dijon, France.**

The agenda and day by day **timetable for SICOGA** may be found [here](#).

The SI Conference (SICO) is a vibrant educational and social part of the meeting filled with workshops, presentations, and cultural activities. It is scheduled for October 4 - 6.

This year's conference centers around the theme: **“Connecting People for Peace – Working Together for Solutions”**

The program reflects this spirit through a rich variety of formats:

- a) Plenary sessions
- b) Panel discussions
- c) World-café style conversations
- d) Speaker's corners
- e) Country presentations

The SI General Assembly (SI GA) is the business part of the meeting. The general assembly is scheduled for October 7 and 8.

If necessary, the morning of October 9 may also be used for the GA. Each Servas member group can send one delegate who will participate in decision making for Servas International. A delegate represents a Servas member group at the General Assembly and can speak and vote during the formal voting sessions. The delegate is normally the National Secretary but could be another person in that Servas member group, as decided by the member group. If no member of a particular group is attending, the national secretary may choose a [Proxy](#) to vote on his/her behalf in the SI elections. A proxy cannot vote on the motions. A Proxy may be a delegate of any country (Servas member group).

Anyone who is a Servas member can also attend SICOGA as a non-delegate, space permitting. All Servas members are invited to attend. It is an open meeting. Any Servas member who registers to attend and is not a delegate is called an Observer.

The meeting is also attended by facilitators (volunteers) who help organize and run the meeting. Volunteers are a special category of observers.

The SICOGA is a unique opportunity to meet people from diverse backgrounds, make lifelong connections, and contribute actively to Servas's global mission of peace and understanding. The SICOGA may also be attended online, provided participants register in advance and the necessary technical arrangements are in place.



# WHAT HAPPENS DURING A SI GENERAL ASSEMBLY (SIGA)

The principal activities during the Servas International General Assembly (SI GA) are –

- (a) vote on motions
- (b) election of new committees

## MOTIONS

A motion is a formal proposal put before the GA. Motions may be proposed either by member groups (to be submitted by their national secretaries) or by the SI Executive Committee (Si Exco). A list of motions that will be discussed during the meeting may be found [here](#).

These motions were already discussed in discussion groups during July and August to give feedback to the motion writers on fine tuning their motions.

In addition to the motions listed above, the General Assembly will review and approve:

- The SI budget for the upcoming mandate period
- [Audited Financial Report for 2024-25](#)
- Activity reports from SI Exco, committees, and working groups
- Proposals for Servas's future direction, including outreach, technology, peace initiatives, and youth engagement



## VOTING ON MOTIONS

At the beginning of the General Assembly, the attending GA will be asked to approve the following:

1. Rules of conduct
2. Rules of Order
3. Voting procedures

These rules will govern the discussion and voting on motions during the General Assembly. This democratic process ensures that Servas remains a member-led movement, guided by shared values and open dialogue.





Our voting rules require physical presence of delegates to participate in votes on motions. During SICOGA 2022, following COVID, a person attending virtually was considered to be physically present for the purpose of voting on motions if actually present online at the time of voting. As part of the voting procedures, the General Assembly will ratify whether the same interpretation will be applied to SICOGA 2025 to allow the participation of virtual delegates.

Once the rules are approved, there will be a final discussion of each motion by the delegates during the formal voting session. A formal voting session is where decisions are made. Only General Assembly delegates and Exco have speaking rights in formal voting sessions. There will be a neutral moderator who will manage the discussions.

Only delegates have voting rights. During the session, the delegates will vote on the motion, to either approve or reject the motion. Decisions are made by one vote per member group present. The count of members present will include virtual (online) delegates that are actually present online at the time of the vote. Under the proxy rules approved in the 2009 GA, Voting by Proxy is not allowed for voting on motions during the SI GA.

Voting on motions will take place live, with in-person delegates voting with paddles and virtual delegates (if allowed) casting their votes with a show of hands.

Motions that are accepted become policies and directives for future governance of Servas.



## VOTING TO ELECT SI OFFICERS

Servas International elections for SI officers are also held during the Formal Voting Sessions. Only delegates are allowed to vote in the elections. Voting by Proxy shall be allowed for elections during the SI GA.

Elections for SI committees' officers will be anonymous and conducted electronically, and will be open for a 16-hour period.

## PREPARING FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Delegates should prepare for the General Assembly by carefully reviewing the motions with other group members, to accurately represent their member group position.





# DIJON/FRANCE - THE VENUE FOR THE 33D SICOGA

The [33d Servas International Conference and General Assembly \(SICOGA\)](#) will take place at the Centre de Rencontres Internationales (CRI) in Dijon, France on October 3–9. This well-equipped conference center offers an ideal setting for our global gathering, providing space for meetings, workshops, shared meals, and community building — all in a peaceful, natural environment.

Dijon, located in the heart of the historic Burgundy region, is known for its rich cultural heritage, elegant architecture, and world-renowned gastronomy. Once the capital of the powerful Dukes of Burgundy, the city blends medieval charm with vibrant modern life. Visitors can explore its beautifully preserved old town, visit museums and markets, and enjoy local specialties like mustard, cheese, and fine wines. Hosting SICOGA in Dijon offers participants a chance to experience the spirit of Servas in a city that values tradition, hospitality, and intercultural dialogue.

We warmly thank the Servas France team for their collaboration with Servas International Exco, over many months, in preparing SICOGA 2025. We especially thank By Nug, a Servas France member, for creating the beautiful logo.



The SICOGA 2025 logo shows the snail which has been the fetish animal of the Burgundy region since the middle-ages. It symbolizes slow and peaceful travel as it carries its own house on its back, while respecting the environment with all its inhabitants. The earth it carries here sends an image of universal friendship, discovery of others, tolerance and meetings without frontiers.



## VENUE FULL BUT WAITLIST OPEN

The venue accommodates 190 people and is full. The waitlist, which was closed in March, when registrations reached 260, has been reopened and can be accessed at <https://www.servas.org/sicoga-2025-registration>.

Space will be offered to those on the waitlist if there are any cancellations. If any person wants to put their name on the waitlist, they should do so immediately. Please note that chances of cancellation are low. The waitlist and the registrations will close on 15 Sep 2025.

# SERVAS ARTISTS EXHIBITION

During the Servas International Conference, in Dijon, October 3-9, Servas France is hosting an [exhibition at the Town Hall](#) (Salle de la Coupole). The exhibition theme is Servas values: meeting, sharing, friendship, peace. Artists need not be registered for SICOGA to submit their artworks.

Thank you to the organizers and to all those who have mailed artistic postcards to be shown at the exhibition.

If you have questions, please email Jean-Luc Turlure at [artists@servas.org](mailto:artists@servas.org)



## INVITATION FOR COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

We would like to invite the **SICOGA participants** to let us know if they wish to make a

- a) a country presentation after dinner (Max 10 minutes)
- b) any other presentation during the speaker's corner
- c) any other cultural moment with music, dance, poem reading or singing

Please write to [vicepresident@servas.org](mailto:vicepresident@servas.org) so that a time slot may be reserved for you.





# ELECTIONS AND CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

## Election of Officers

During the SIGA, delegates elect members to key leadership roles, including the Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco) and members of various standing committees (Internal Audit, Development, Youth and Families, Conflict Resolution and Distant Vote Administrator). These elected individuals serve for the term until the next General Assembly.

[SIGA 2025: Elections | Servas International](#)

- Nominations for positions on SI Committees and teams

The Nominations and Job Descriptions Committee has put out this call:



## ***CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: HELP SHAPE SERVAS INTERNATIONAL 2026-2028***

Are you ready to help build a more connected and peaceful world? Servas International is now calling for volunteers to step forward for a wide range of elected and appointed positions for the 2026–2028 term. Whether you have a passion for leadership, coordination, communication, or service, this is your opportunity to contribute to a global movement of peace through hosting, travel and cultural exchange. Read more about it here: [Call for Volunteers: Help Shape Servas International 2026–2028 | Servas International](#) (you need to be logged in)





# GET A GLIMPSE OF PREVIOUS SICOGRAS

Previous SICOGRAs have taken place in countries like Argentina, Poland, New Zealand, South Korea and India - just to mention a few.

On [servas.org](https://servas.org) you can get insights of what happened during some of these meetings:



[SICOGR 2022: Panchgani in India.](#)



[SICOGR 2018: Seoul in South Korea.](#)



[SICOGR 2015: Matamata in New Zealand.](#)

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SI Exco will have a team of young volunteers, during the SICOGR 2025, who will be covering the daily news about the workshops, the speaker's corners, the cultural moments and the General Assembly, as well as in the tech support team who will be working on many aspects of meeting management and technology.

We will also try to keep you updated through our social media [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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This pre-SICOGR Newsletter was brought to you by the SICOGR Youth Media Team, working under the coordination of the SI Vice President.



## SAYAN ROY

"Hello! I'm Sayan from Servas India, a visual design enthusiast and part of the Media & Communication team. I've contributed to the Youth Newsletter (Vol. 31), designed the Servas 75th Year and Africa logos, created event posters, and have also been part of the organizing committee for the Photography for Peace event. Outside Servas, I work as a Strategic Account Manager in IT."



## IGINA GABRIELA PEREIRA

I'm Igina from Servas Brazil. I've been part of Servas for nearly three years and currently serve as Communications Coordinator for Servas Brazil. I've had the privilege of volunteering at events such as the Latin American Youth Meeting, the Brazilian National Meeting 2023, LATAM 2024, and the CSW69 at the UN. Outside Servas, I work as a Pedagogical Coordinator at an English school.



## ADITYA DIVYA SINGH

I'm Aditya Divya from Servas India. I have been associated with Servas for nearly 25 years since my childhood. More recently, I moderated Virtual Parallel Sessions at CSW68 and 69, and also won the Best Video in the SI Story and Video Competition 2024. Outside Servas, I work at a University as Assistant Professor, specializing in German Studies, Plurilingualism and Applied Linguistics.



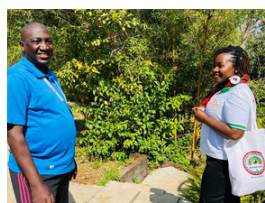
## ELENA OLIVERA BEGUÉ

Hey! I'm Elena, from Barcelona and by now I've been part of servas for half of my life. I have participated and volunteered in many camps and also for last sicoga 2022 in India, where I was also in the Newsletter team. There I was elected for the youth and family committee. When I am not sharing with servad, it is because I am doing my PhD in Environmental Engineering or I am in the mountains.



# Glimpse of SICOGA 2022

India







# SICOGA 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> October to 9<sup>th</sup> October  
Dijon, France

[SICOGA 2025: Timetable](#) | [Servas International](#)

