

**SI EXCO MOTION FOR SERVAS INTERNATIONAL  
DISTANT VOTE 2023  
(SI DV)**



**1. Heading for the proposal in the motion**

*SI DV– Motion–01–November–2023–SI Exco*

*Authorise holding distant Extraordinary Online SIGA (EO SIGA) in May 2024 in lieu of the SI Distant Vote.*

**2. Date and place for this motion.**

SI Distant Vote (SI DV) November 2023.

**3. SI member group(s) or SI Exco member(s) who is 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 SI DV.**

SI Exco.

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

SI Exco is hereby authorised to arrange for a distant Extraordinary Online Servas International General Assembly (EO SIGA 2024) in May 2024 in lieu of the May 2024 SI DV.

*(SI Member Groups can vote YES, NO or ABSTAIN on this SI DV proposal.)*

**5. Implications on SI Statutes 2022. Will this proposal affect the SI statutes and therefore create a need for a change in the SI statutes?**

During the EO SIGA 2024, a statute change will be proposed to change the SI Statutes (2022) so that an annual online SI General Assembly (O SIGA) may be held in late October or early November each year in lieu of the regular SI DV held in November.

SI Exco may also add other motions that may come up for discussion at the EO SIGA 2024.

The SI Statutes (2022) are accessible on the internet here:

<https://servas.org/en/community/board-and-management/administration>

**6. Brief description of the reason for your proposal. Why should the SI Member Groups approve this motion?**

**The SI Member Groups should approve this motion because changes to statutes can be made only in General Assembly meetings. Between two General Assemblies, changes to statutes can be made in an Extraordinary Online Servas International General Assembly (EO SIGA).**

Currently, the SI Distant Vote regulation statutes require that SI should have 2 distant votes - to be held each year in May and November. As a result of this proposal, there will be an amendment to the statutes to allow SI Exco the option of holding an Online Servas International General Assembly (O SIGA) during late October/early November each year in place of the November DV. The online general assembly will be held in real time on zoom (or similar platform) and will allow all member groups to engage simultaneously in real time.

**Having an Online Si General Assembly (O SIGA) each year will:**

- Improve the quality of the decentralised process for SI Member Groups' democratic dialogue, discussions and decision making. It also gives the individual members in the SI Member Groups a better chance to participate in SI's democratic process through their national entity. It will lead to more engagement.
- Accelerate the decision making process in SI.
- Help SI key persons to maintain contact with other SI key persons.
- Stimulate the growth of the SI key persons' network.
- Give an incentive to more Servas members to become active in SI volunteer work.

**Statutory support for this motion**

Is there a Servas International constitutional support for a *distant Extraordinary Online Servas International General Assembly (EO SIGA)*?

Yes, there's constitutional support for a EO SIGA. This is expressed in the SI Statutes (2022).

Excerpt from SI Statutes (2022) – please note the sentence written with ***bold italics***:

/.../ IV General Assembly

1) The General Assembly of Servas International shall consist exclusively of one delegate from each member group. These delegates have the right to vote and to speak. The officers of Servas International have speaking rights only. The General Assembly may also grant speaking rights (which may be restricted to specified agenda items) to other individuals.

2) The General Assembly shall meet at regular intervals as decided by each General Assembly. ***In addition to this, the General Assembly may be convened at any time when requested by at least one fifth of member groups.*** In such an event, at least three months' written notice, including agenda, time and place, must be given to each member group.

/.../

#### **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. We will use existing infrastructure to conduct this meeting.*

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

A SI Exco volunteer who can answer any queries from SI Member Groups.

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

**The proposed action should ideally be:** Decision in the EO SIGA May 2024.  
Once approved, SI may conduct an online SI General Assembly meeting every November hereafter, in lieu of the Distant Vote.

#### **10. Which person or persons writes/write this motion and is/are responsible for the proposal?**

Name/names:

Radha B. Radhakrishna, SI President (SI P)

Jonny Sågänger, SI General Secretary (SI GS)

Paul Nielsen, SI Membership & Technology Secretary (SI MTS)

**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.

**12. SI Exco comment on this motion**

Comment:

**For Minute Taker Use Only:**

**13. Amendments (Passed or defeated)**

**14. Final Motion (approved or defeated)**