

MOTION FOR
EXTRAORDINARY SERVAS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024
(EO-SIGA 2024)

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

Add an option in the SI statutes to conduct a regular online SI General Assembly (O-SIGA).

2. Date and place for this motion.

2024-02-18

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 SIGA.

SI Exco

Responsible: SI President R. Radhakrishna, SI MTS P. Nielsen & SI General Secretary J. Sågänger

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

We propose that SIGA 2022 approves that (one or more goals and/or actions):

● During the May 2024 Extraordinary SI General Assembly (EO SIGA 2024, a statutes change will create conditions for

- SI Exco to call an annual online SI General Assembly (O SIGA) to be held in October or November each year instead of the regular SI DV held in November or in April or May each year instead of the regular SI DV held in May.

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

5. Implications on SI Statutes 2022.

The SI Statutes are accessible on the internet here:

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

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

Yes.

Proposed new wording in the [SI statutes \(2022\)](#) (new text with **bold letters**):

/.../

V 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.

SI Exco may call for an annual Online SI General Assembly (O SIGA) to be held in October or November each year instead of the regular SI DV held in November or in April or May each year instead of the regular SI DV held in May.

In such an event, at least three months' written notice, including agenda, time and place, must be given to each member group.

/.../

6. Brief description of the reason for your proposal.

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.

EO-SIGA 2024 should approve this motion because:

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

Currently, the SI Distant Vote regulation statutes and practice 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) either during October/November each or April/May

year in place of the November or May SI 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.

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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:

Decision in the EO SIGA May 2024.

Once approved, SI may conduct an online SI General Assembly meeting every November and/or May hereafter, in lieu of the SI Distant Vote.

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

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

Functions/titles in Servas:

Contact information

Name/names:

Radha B. Radhakrishna, SI President (SI P)

Jonny Sågänger, SI General Secretary (SI GS)

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

Email address/addresses:

president@servas.org

mts@servas.org

generalsecretary@servas.org

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

Date: 20xx-MONTH-DAY

Comment:

For Minute Taker Use Only:

13. Amendments (Passed or defeated)