

MOTION FORM
FOR
SERVAS INTERNATIONAL DISTANT VOTE
(May 2024)



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

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION LANGUAGE BARRIERS at SICOGA

2. Date and place for this motion.

Distant vote May 2024

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.

Servas France

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

We propose that the May 2024 distant vote approves that:

- Spanish language be more used in debates, with direct transcription of what is said on a screen
- Enough time be devoted to clarification, discussion and debate of motions to be voted on.
 - Rules of Order be edited to take into consideration the difficulty of non-English speaking delegates by giving them 4 minutes instead of only 2 to express themselves during SIGA
 - Native English speakers take into consideration non-native English speakers and use simple English, slowly and distinctly so that everybody understands them. That the moderators are empowered to remind them of this as needed.
- A transcription on screen of what is said in English could be of great help. There is software that does it automatically.

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:

http://servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/other_files/2023/si_statutes_2022_final_2023-01-14.pdf

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:

● NO....

● ...

● ...

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.

This motion should be approved because (one or more motivations):

- At SICOGA 2022, many non-English speaking delegates were not in a position to understand clearly the written documents nor oral exchanges, and had much difficulty expressing their ideas in a way to be understood by all.
- As an international association that values the diversity and richness of its member groups, limiting language obstacles is an essential condition to the quality of debates.
- The richness/quality of ideas arises from the cultural differences carried by languages
- The issue of languages is not new to Servas. Already in the decisions taken at the 2015 General Assembly (Totara Springs, Matamata, New Zealand), we find the following resolution: “It is agreed to include Spanish as a language used in communication in Servas International, with a budget of 10000 CHF for the first year, to be reviewed, and to appoint a coordinator.”
https://servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/handbook/2019/SI_Handbook_20190226_v2.pdf
- Giving access to all the necessary documents in Spanish several months before SICOGA would help delegates to study them with their Board members in advance, and to share ideas more actively in the SWGs.
 - Systematizing the translation into another language during SICOGA is a way to make sure that the participants keep in mind the linguistic diversity, and take it into account in the discussions.

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:

Two **Servas** translators need to be appointed. Their transport and registration costs would be paid by SI: about 1500 CHF.

This would leave 8500 CHF out of the 10000 CHF budget to pay for software, technical tools...

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

The will to do so.

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

The proposed action should ideally:

- Start on this date: 2024- May.
Several months before the next SIGA
- Be accomplished on this date: 2025-May
- ...

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 is/are responsible for the proposal?

Name/names: Isabelle GIRARD, on behalf of Servas France executive Board
ServasOnline registration ID/IDs: 17055
Functions/titles in Servas: Vice-president of Servas France

Contact information

Email address/adresses: vicepresident@servas-france.org /gisabelle17@gmail.com

Mobile number/numbers (Signal, WhatsApp etc): +33616561929

If applicable:

Other communication channels:

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.

EXCO should adapt the Rules of Order so that they take into consideration language barriers.

The Servas Group hosting the next SIGA should have in its checklist the constitution of a team dedicated to languages and in particular to the translation/transcription of oral exchanges into Spanish. This team could be made up of members from different countries.

Servas International should guarantee this process.

Servas International should also ensure that paper documents are translated, at least from English into Spanish, or teach delegates to use Google or DeepL translators.

12. SI Exco comment on this motion

Comment:

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For Minute Taker Use Only:

13. Amendments (Passed or defeated)

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14. Final Motion (approved or defeated)

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