



# **SERVAS INTERNATIONAL**

**Minutes of  
General Assembly  
Held at Mar del Plata, Argentina  
From September 6 To 12, 2009**

**Prepared by**

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**SI General Secretary 2006-2009**

# **Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009**

A General Assembly of Servas International was held at Mar del Plata, Argentina from September 6 to 12, 2009. The list of participants is attached as Appendix – 2.

September 6 was declared as “Day 0” and was devoted to preliminary activities such as introductions, and a Peace Course for GA participants. The actual GA sessions began from September 7.

Most of the agenda items were first discussed by different groups of participants in workshop sessions and the recommendations or proposals, which emerged from these workshops, were then put to vote in the GA sessions. In some cases, more than one agenda items were merged together by the workshops and were sent to the GA in the form of a single motion.

Each event or motion recorded in these minutes has been assigned a unique serial number with which it can be referred to, e.g. “Serial number 42 of GA 2009 Minutes” would identify a particular motion passed by GA 2009.

# Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

Serial Number	<b>September 6, 2009 (Day 0) Event/Motion</b>
1	SI EXCO President and Chairman of the General Assembly, Gary Sealey called the meeting to order at 8:58 AM.
2	Gary asked the SI EXCO committee to stand and be acknowledged.
3	Gary asked the Servas Argentina organizing committee comprising Pablo Colangelo and his colleagues to stand and be acknowledged.
4	Gary explained the beginnings of Servas after World War II.
5	Gary introduced the moderators Julie Dotsch, Chris Jones and Cintia Amor.
6	<p>General Secretary Pramod Kumar introduced the team of minute takers: Sylvia Krogh, Daryl Chinn, Phyllis Chinn, Elizabeth Sebestyen, Dorothy Fine, Judith Shotten, Marijke Batenburg, Bette Allekotte and Edith Sommer.</p> <p>Pramod announced that the minutes would record only the final versions of the motions passed, their movers and seconders and the voting figures. Discussions on motions would not be recorded and procedural motions would not be recorded.</p>
7	The youth group interpreters were introduced: Magiari Diaz Diaz, Mariano Moreno, Almery Tessarolo, Carla Massolini, Leandro Bohnhoff, Aneris Cao, and their leader, Pablo Chufeni.
8	Gary Sealey introduced Martin Krajcik who led a workshop on peace education for all GA participants.
	<b>September 7, 2009 (Day 1) Event/Motion</b>
9	Moderator Chris Jones called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.
10	<p>The amended agenda (page numbers 5 and 6 of Kit for Success) be accepted.</p> <p>Moved by Britain. Seconded by Malawi.</p> <p>Votes: For: 44. Against: 0. Abstain: 1</p>

# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	The motion is passed.
11	<p>Rules of Order (page number 16 and 17 of Kit for Success) be accepted.</p> <p>Moved by Japan. Seconded by Germany.</p> <p>Votes: For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 0</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
12	<p>The Minutes of SI GA 2006 be accepted.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Denmark.</p> <p>There were no corrections or additions to the minutes as presented.</p> <p>Votes: For: 42. Against: 0. Abstain: 3.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
13	<p>Report of SI President Gary Sealey (page number 36-46 of Kit for Success) be accepted.</p> <p>Moved by Canada. Seconded by Australia.</p> <p>Votes: For: 42. Against: 0. Abstain: 3.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
14	<p>Report of SI Vice President Mary Jane Mikuriya (page number 51-52 of Kit for Success) be accepted.</p> <p>Moved by Sweden. Seconded by Colombia.</p> <p>Votes: For: 44. Against: 0. Abstain: 1.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
15	<p>Report of SI Treasurer L.V. Subramanian (page number 53-55 of Kit for Success) be accepted.</p> <p>Moved by Netherlands. Seconded by Belgium.</p> <p>Votes:</p>

## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
16	<p>Report of SI Peace Secretary Nandasena Amarasinghe (page number 69-71 of Kit for Success) be accepted.</p> <p>Moved by Sweden. Seconded by Pakistan.</p> <p>Votes: For: 25. Against: 4. Abstain: 16.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
17	<p>Report of SI General Secretary Pramod Kumar (page number 88-96 of Kit for Success, together with a supplementary report presented orally) be accepted subject to possible corrections in the numbers of hosts.</p> <p>Moved by Botswana. Seconded by Japan.</p> <p>Votes: For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> During discussion on the report, Suriname and Costa Rica had said that the number of hosts in their countries was reported incorrectly in the General Secretary's report. Pramod checked the number of hosts as reported by Suriname and Costa Rica in their annual reports and confirmed that the numbers in his report were the same as the numbers reported by Suriname and Costa Rica in their annual reports. Hence, no correction to his report was required.</p> <p>A printed copy of the supplementary report (9 pages) was later given to all delegates.</p>
18	<p>Report of SI Host List Coordinator Anna Flammini (page number 97-98 of Kit for Success) be accepted.</p> <p>Moved by Uganda. Seconded by Malawi.</p> <p>Votes: For: 42. Against: 2. Abstain: 1.</p>

## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	The motion is passed.
19	<p>Independent Auditor's Report for the years 2007, 2006 and 2005 (page number 240-241 of Kit for Success) be accepted.</p> <p>Moved by Canada. Seconded by Spain.</p> <p>Votes: For: 41. Against: 1. Abstain: 3.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
	<p><b>September 8, 2009 (Day 2)</b> <b>Event/Motion</b></p>
20	<p>The meeting began at 9:10 AM with a work song led by the members of Youth Group, "All the work under heaven... But we will do it all"</p>
21	<p>Information Secretary of Servas Pakistan presented a Shield of Recognition and Appreciation to Pablo Colangelo. Pablo acknowledged the team which had helped him.</p>
22	<p>NS of Servas Colombia read out the Declaration of Peace and Intention.</p>
23	<p>The Membership Committee Report was presented by Rita Desauvage, one of the three Committee members. The interim report (page number 147-149 of Kit for Success) was superseded by an updated report, which Rita presented. The recommendations of the Committee regarding giving member status to some national groups and canceling the member status of some member groups, were put to vote. Since, the Committee is not authorized to move motions in the GA, these motions were moved by Rita in her capacity as the NS of Servas Belgium.</p>
24	<p>Bolivia be reinstated as a member.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Uruguay.</p> <p>Votes: For: 44. Against: 0. Abstain: 1.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
25	<p>Cameroon be given full membership in Servas International.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Uganda.</p>

## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>Votes: For: 44. Against: 0. Abstain: 2.</p>
26	<p>Congo-Brazzaville be given full membership in Servas International.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium, seconded by Botswana.</p> <p>Votes: For: 46. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
27	<p>A roll call was made. 46 member groups were present.</p>
28	<p>Greece be given full membership in Servas International</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Turkey.</p> <p>Votes: For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 1.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
29	<p>Kazakhstan be given full membership in Servas International</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Russia.</p> <p>Votes: For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 1.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
30	<p>Taiwan be given full membership in Servas International</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Pakistan and Japan.</p> <p>Votes: For: 46. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
31	<p>That the status of Bangladesh be changed from member status to national group with no member status</p> <p>Moved by Belgium, Seconded by Germany.</p> <p>Votes: For: 29. Against: 3. Abstain: 14.</p>

## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>The motion is passed.</p>
32	<p>Kyrgyzstan and Paraguay not be removed from member status.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Second by Norway.</p> <p>Votes: For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 1.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
33	<p>Zimbabwe and Netherlands Antilles be removed from membership status.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Netherlands.</p> <p>Votes: For: 37. Against: 0. Abstain: 8. One delegate out of the room.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
34	<p>Mauritius be removed from voting membership status.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by France.</p> <p>Votes: For: 25. Against: 7. Abstain: 13. One delegate out of the room.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
35	<p>Latvia be removed from voting membership status.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Uruguay.</p> <p>Votes: For: 23. Against: 2. Abstain: 21.</p> <p>The result was a tie since abstentions count as negative votes (as decided by the GA at Latina in 2006).</p> <p>The moderator requested the SI President to give his casting vote. The President voted against the motion.</p>



## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	The motion is lost.
	<b>September 9, 2009 (Day 3) Event/Motion</b>
36	Moderator Cintia Amor opened the meeting at 9:04 am.
37	International Youth Coordinator Pablo Chufeni presented his report (page number 100-105 of Kit for Success).
38	Youth Development Officer Ann Greenough presented her report (page number 106-109 of Kit for Success) and also the Report on the First Servas International Youth Award 2007 (page number 110-115 of Kit for Success).
39	Moved that we accept the 3 youth reports (page number 100-115 of Kit for Success).  Moved by Canada. Seconded by Botswana.  Votes: For: 43. Against: 0. Abstain: 2.  The motion is passed.
40	Moderator Chris Jones opened the afternoon session at 3 PM.
41	Elections for various SI positions and committees were held through secret ballots. Discussion on various motions continued while the ballots were being counted.
42	Moderator announced the election result for SI President.  Gary Sealey (Canada) elected SI President by acclamation.
43	Moderator announced the election result for SI Vice President.  Pramod Kumar (India): 32 votes Jaime Romero (Colombia): 13 votes Invalid vote: 1  Pramod Kumar (India) elected SI Vice President.
44	In order to retain its voting rights at the GA, a member country must have published a host list not older than two years and must have submitted an annual report for at least one of the two previous years.  Publication can be in Dolphin or by sending a copy to all national secretaries who have requested it or sent to the host list coordinator.  Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Australia.

## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>Votes: For: 39. Against: 0. Abstain: 7.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
45	<p>Moderator announced the election result for SI General Secretary. Penny Pattison (Canada) elected SI General Secretary by acclamation.</p>
46	<p>Moderator announced the election result for SI Treasurer.</p> <p>Muhammad Shoaib Khan (Pakistan): 2 votes. Alex Dali (France): 4 votes. Miroslaw Wasilewski (Poland): 40 votes</p> <p>Miroslaw Wasilewski (Poland) elected SI Treasurer.</p>
47	<p>Set up a group to recommend revised stamp fees by December 31, 2009.</p> <p>Five persons including treasurers and people from small and large Servas countries will serve on the committee and US\$ 100 to be provided for communication expenses for the group.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Bolivia.</p> <p>Votes: For: 39. Against: 1. Abstain: 6.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
48	<p>Moderator announced the election result for SI Host List Coordinator.</p> <p>Pablo Colangelo (Argentina) elected SI Host List Coordinator by acclamation.</p>
49	<p>Moderator announced the election result for Peace Secretary.</p> <p>Luisa Corbetta (Italy): 12 Votes Kim Jong Soo (South Korea): 24 Votes Sercan Duygan (Turkey): 10 Votes</p> <p>Kim Jong Soo (South Korea) elected SI Peace Secretary.</p>
50	<p>Nominations for election at the GA to be accepted until immediately before the start of the voting.</p>

# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>Moved by Germany. Seconded by Japan.          Votes:          For: 44. Against: 0. Abstain: 2.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
51	<p>To discuss and find ways of how Servas can help small national groups to grow and flourish, in the next decade,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) As recommended by the Development Committee, to use buddies, mentors and traveling ambassadors, to further the Servas concepts of peace and development in small/new countries and small communities.</li> <li>2) To revise the Servas Handbook to make it more user friendly for small/new Servas groups.</li> <li>3) To encourage individuals and families to meet in order to help Servas set up and grow in past and present conflict areas. This will help promote peace in these more challenging areas.</li> <li>4) To give voice to the small/new countries by encouraging them to participate at the GA.</li> <li>5) To use the ideas and practical suggestions in the Intelligent Roadmap to help the development and growth of small/new countries in Servas.</li> </ol> <p>To put in place systems and processes to ensure that small/new countries are more actively involved in the Servas spirit.</p> <p>A US\$ 500 annual budget may be necessary to support members in their role as mentors, buddies and ambassadors.</p> <p>To promote these roles by adding a few sentences to the letter of introduction form.</p> <p>Responsibility to be with the Development Committee (formerly Development Fund Committee), Peace Secretary and Vice President.</p> <p>Moved by Botswana. Seconded by Germany.</p> <p>Votes:          For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 1.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>

# Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

<b>September 10, 2009 (Day 4) Event/Motion</b>	
52	Moderator Julie Dotsch opened the session at 9:15 AM
53	<p>To develop an action plan that promotes Servas values including tolerance, open mindedness, building friendship, peace, and nonviolence;</p> <p>To set goals and a content for a Servas course to train Servas hosts, travelers, and officers to become peace advocates;</p> <p>Responsibility to be with the Peace Secretary.</p> <p>Funding will be required up to US\$ 2,000 per year for any required courses.</p> <p>Moved by Britain. Seconded by Uruguay.</p> <p>Votes: For: 35, Against: 1, Abstain: 8</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
54	<p>Servas National Groups to develop strategies and action plans for Servas outreach and cooperation with other organizations with similar values and goals.</p> <p>Responsibility to be with the national groups, Peace Secretaries and National Secretaries with guidance and coordination from the Servas International Peace Secretary, if necessary.</p> <p>We expect that most national groups would fund this; however, we propose US\$ 200 per year to enable groups without sufficient income to develop these strategies and action plans.</p> <p>Moved by Britain. Seconded by Germany.</p> <p>Votes: For: 46. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
55	All National Secretaries, national teams, and boards to be e-mailed a pdf version and a link to the online version of the

# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>annual SI News, and also to be mailed a disk copy if required. National groups to be asked to forward this to all their hosts and travelers in electronic or print versions as appropriate.</p> <p>Any other SI Newsletters to be sent to national groups by e-mail with a link.</p> <p>To be implemented for the next annual newsletter. Budget required, US\$ 2,000 per year.</p> <p>Moved by Canada. Seconded by Brazil.</p> <p>Votes: For: 42. Against: 0. Abstain: 3.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
56	<p>A) Small grants of US\$ 200 for new countries be managed by the DC; that DC prepare a simple format for applying for these grants; and that the criteria be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) must be applied for by a key person from another member country, e.g., Area Coordinator, National Secretary, Distant Interviewer, Host List Coordinator.</li> <li>2) the receiving country must have a minimum of five hosts.</li> <li>3) a brief report of how the money has been used must be sent to the requesting key person within one year with receipts when available.</li> </ol> <p>B) Small grants of US\$ 200 for existing countries be managed by DC; that DC must create a simple format for applying for these grants and that the criteria be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) must be applied for by the National Secretary or the main contact or another key person from the same country.</li> <li>2) for the first time of applying, a plan of how the money is to be used is not required but the second time, a plan will be required.</li> </ol>

# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>3) a brief report of how the money has been used must be sent to the DC within one year with receipts when available.</p> <p>Moved by New Zealand. Seconded by Japan.</p> <p>Votes: For: 40. Against: 1. Abstain: 5.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
57	<p>An amount of US\$ 3,000 should be set aside in the budget for each of the next three years for small grants for new and existing countries. This would fund about twelve (12) countries plus costs.</p> <p>Moved by Zambia. Seconded by Uganda.</p> <p>Votes: For: 46. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
58	<p>Item 1 of the Principles section of the Servas Regulations for Distant Voting be amended to read as follows:</p> <p>“The Distant Voting process shall operate by sending the motions and the voting information to the National Secretary of each member group who shall ensure the Distant Vote is sent in for counting”. Also the related references to “Authorized Voter” shall be replaced by “National Secretary”.</p> <p>Moved by EXCO. Seconded by Germany.</p> <p>Votes: For: 43. Against: 0, Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
59	<p>Item 3 of Servas Regulations for Distant Voting be amended to read as follows:</p> <p>“Each member group shall decide itself who will cast the distant vote on their behalf and how the group will determine if the vote on each motion is to be, ‘for’, ‘against’ or ‘abstain’ ”.</p>

# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>Moved by EXCO. Seconded by Turkey.</p> <p>Votes: For: 44. Against: 0, Abstain: 0</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
60	<p>Item 5 of the Principles section of the Servas Regulations for Distance Voting be amended to read as follows:</p> <p>“The Distant Vote Administrator shall facilitate informed discussion of items to be decided by distant vote. (For example, by setting up a web based forum and/or providing mailing lists to the submitter of the item and member groups).”</p> <p>Moved by EXCO. Seconded by Sweden.</p> <p>Votes: For: 40. Against: 0. Abstain: 4.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
61	<p>The Development Committee should be empowered to provide grants for meetings with specific purposes in line with Servas ideals, such as meetings proposing peace between two countries.</p> <p>A budget should be set aside for development grants for activities such as area meetings, peace meetings and other projects as follows: 2010: US\$ 9,000, 2011: US\$ 9,500, 2012: US\$ 10,000.</p> <p>Moved by Zambia, Seconded by Suriname.</p> <p>Votes: For: 40. Against: 0. Abstain: 4.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
62	<p>SI host list coordinator will set up a host list testing system together with a team to ensure reliability, beginning in January 2010, according to Servas working group guidelines. The budget needed will be US\$ 800 for 2010 and US\$ 800 for 2012.</p> <p>Moved by France. Seconded by Argentina</p> <p>Votes:</p>

# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>For: 43. Against: 0. Abstain: 1</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
63	<p>The GA approves and accepts the presented action plan for the period 2010/2011/2012 as a framework for Servas Youth activities including the budget attached.</p> <p>Budget :</p> <p>2010 US\$ 10,000; 2011 US\$ 10,500; 2012 US\$ 11,000.</p> <p>Moved by Canada. Seconded by Turkey.</p> <p>Votes: For: 38. Against: 1. Abstain: 7.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
64	<p>On behalf of EXCO, Gary Sealey and Pramod Kumar briefed the GA about Servas in Nepal. They said, two different groups of people were claiming to be the representatives of Servas Nepal. EXCO had not recognized any of these groups and had urged them to work together. Chris Slader and Marian Slader had gone to Nepal on a friendship mission and met the two groups in an attempt to bring them together. Pramod had also spoken to the leaders of the two groups and tried to bring them together. Since, all these attempts had failed, Gary and Pramod wanted suggestions as to what should be done to resolve the problem.</p>
65	<p>The afternoon session began at 2:38 PM. Moderator was Chris Jones.</p>
66	<p>Moderator announced the election results for Development Committee (5 members).</p> <p>Mary Jane Mikuriya (USA): 33 votes Sallee Lee (Malaysia): 34 votes Judith Shotten (Israel): 34 votes Luisa Corbetta (Italy): 35 votes Aneris Cao (Argentina): 40 votes Seishiro Tomioka (Japan): 31 votes</p> <p>Aneris Cao (Argentina), Luisa Corbetta (Italy), Judith Shotten (Israel), Sally Lee (Malaysia) and Mary Jane Mikuriya (USA) elected to Development Committee.</p>



## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

67	<p>Audit Committee be renamed Finance Committee and have only 3 members.</p> <p>Moved by Botswana. Seconded by Australia.</p> <p>Votes: For: 25. Against: 13. Abstain: 7.</p> <p>France, India, Germany, Turkey, Israel, Bolivia, Norway, USA, Thailand, Malaysia, Guatemala, Colombia and Paraguay opposed the motion. Ireland abstained.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
68	<p>Moderator announced the election results for Audit Committee (3 members):</p> <p>Phyllis Chinn (USA): 33 L V Subramanian (India): 40 Jonny Saganger (Sweden): 37 Alex Dali (France): 11 Muhammad Shoab Khan (Pakistan): 8</p> <p>L. V. Subramanian (India), Jonny Saganger (Sweden) and Phyllis Chinn (USA) elected to Audit Committee.</p>
69	<p>Moderator announced the election results for Conflict Resolution Committee (3 members):</p> <p>Chris Slader (Britain): 21 Veli Aykut Guzer (Turkey): 19 Julie Dotsch (Canada): 34 Luigi Uslenghi (Italy): 22 Daryl Chinn (USA): 30</p> <p>(Two delegates absent.)</p> <p>Julie Dotsch (Canada), Daryl Chinn (USA) and Luigi Uslenghi (Italy) elected to Conflict Resolution Committee.</p>
70	<p>Moderator announced the election results for Nominations Committee (3 members):</p> <p>Ann Greenough (Britain), Sylvia Krogh (Canada) and Anna Flammini</p>

## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	(Italy) elected to Nominations Committee by acclamation.
71	<p>Moderator announced the election results for Newsletter Editor:</p> <p>Almery Tessarolo (Argentina) and her team: 33 votes  Michael Johnson (Canada): 10 votes  Invalid vote: 1</p> <p>Almery Tessarolo (Argentina) and her team elected as SI Newsletter Editor. Michael Johnson (Canada) offered to work with the team.</p>
72	<p>Moderator announced the election results for Archivist:</p> <p>Grant Barnes (USA) elected Archivist by acclamation.</p>
73	<p>Moderator announced the election results for Youth Development Officer:</p> <p>Magiari Diaz Diaz (Venezuela) elected Youth Development Officer by acclamation.</p>
74	<p>Moderator announced the election results for Youth Coordinator:</p> <p>Pablo Chufeni (Argentina) elected Youth Coordinator by acclamation.</p>
75	Moderator is Julie Dotsch
76	<p>Noreen Mirza (Pakistan) and Chris Jones (Canada) elected to Job Description/Statutes Committee by acclamation.</p> <p>EXCO has the power to appoint a 3<sup>rd</sup> member in the Committee.</p>
77	<p>A Servas Online program shall be developed and implemented by the end of 2011 and that this program shall be evaluated at the next GA.</p> <p>The financing of Servas Online should be administered in an independent account to be opened by 31 Jan 2010. This account should be reserved exclusively for this purpose and that this financial arrangement should be evaluated at the next GA.</p> <p>A Servas Online Servicing Team in cooperation with ICT be created.</p> <p>An investment of EUR 10,000/US\$ 14,500/CHF 15,000 per year be allocated. This will be recovered by savings from reduction in printing and distribution expenses. One Swiss Franc to be charged annually for every member of a National Group (wh has over 100 members now) and other willing countries pay the service contribution.</p>

# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>Moved by Denmark. Seconded by New Zealand</p> <p>Votes: For: 34. Against: 3 Abstain: 8.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
	<p><b>September 11, 2009 (Day 5)</b> <b>Event/Motion</b></p>
78	<p>Allow proxy voting for elections at General Assemblies to enable member countries not present at the GA to participate in the election process.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by France.</p> <p>Votes: For: 37. Against: 3. Abstain: 5.</p> <p>The motion is passed by 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority.</p>
79	<p>Register SI as an NGO in the canton of Zurich, Switzerland, and appoint a qualified agent for service of processes such as the organisation's "mail drop" for legal documents.</p> <p>The cost of registration and appointing an agent to be found out. In addition, US\$ 100 may be provided for correspondence.</p> <p>Moved by USA. Seconded by Argentina.</p> <p>Votes: For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
80	<p>Anyone elected or nominated to a post in Servas will be informed unambiguously of what is expected of them and what expenses will be reimbursed.</p> <p>Moved by Britain. Seconded by Australia.</p> <p>Votes: For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>

# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

81	<p>The budget for area coordinators to be US\$ 24,000 per year.</p> <p>Moved by Bolivia. Seconded by Botswana.</p> <p>Votes: For: 25. Against: 10. Abstain: 11.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
82	<p>The ICT budget be US\$12,000 in 2010, US\$ 8,000 in 2011, US\$ 8,000 in 2012 and US\$ 4,000 in 2013 and the on-line program budget be US\$ 15,000 in 2010, US\$ 15,000 in 2011, US\$ 10,500 in 2012 and US\$ 7,000 in 2013.</p> <p>Moved by Germany. Seconded by New Zealand.</p> <p>Votes: For: 34. Against: 1. Abstain: 9.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
83	<p>The session resumed at 3:15 PM. Moderator was Chris Jones</p>
84	<p>Adopt a four year budget, with a GA planned in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, with cuts to the following budget line items:</p> <p>EXCO Expenses 25 % over 4 years. AC Conference 25 % over 4 years Youth Meetings 26% over 4 years GA Expenses 25% over 4 years</p> <p>To reduce the deficit after 4 years to about 25,000 CHF. Deficits to be funded from SI reserves. And that this budget be reviewed and updated each year to actually reflect actual income and expenses. The updated budget to be approved by distant vote. Youth budget to be 8000 CHF for each of the 4 years.</p> <p>Moved by Germany. Seconded by Botswana.</p> <p>Votes: For: 40. Against: 0. Abstain: 5.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p> <p><b>Explanatory Note: The GA appointed a Budget Group, which prepared and</b></p>

## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>presented a draft budget. The cuts as stated above were applied to the respective line items in this draft budget. The budget as approved (after applying the cuts) is attached as Appendix – 1.</p>
85	<p>Chris Patterson (New Zealand) elected Distant Vote Administrator by acclamation (after he announced that in order to avoid any conflict of interest, he will resign from the office of Joint National Secretary of Servas New Zealand).</p>
86	<p>a) A Youth Travel Award fund be set up to offer a Youth Travel Award to sponsor at least one young person to each GA and International Youth Meeting when funds are available. There will be a commitment to fairly distribute any funding available to different regions of the world. Donations to the fund will be invited from individual Servas members and National Groups and, in time, approaches will be made to charitable fund and foundations who have resources to offer.</p> <p>b) As an interim arrangement, donations would be received into a new account in Britain to be managed and audited by Servas Britain but accountable to SI Treasurer. At such time as new arrangements are in place for SI banking in the Euro zone, consideration will be given to moving the fund to an SI account</p> <p>c) A working group of the Servas Youth Team will consider the practicalities of setting up a Youth Travel Award Trust Fund. A progress report will be given to the next GA.</p> <p>Moved by Britain. Seconded by Singapore.</p> <p>Votes: For: 44. Against: 0. Abstain: 1.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
87	<p>A resource will be set up on the SI website and Servas Youth website where hosts from different countries can make known what experiences they can offer to young Servas travellers, in terms of their special interests and expertise. In addition it will also indicate where hosts can open up opportunities for work or volunteer experience in their local community.</p> <p>Moved by Britain. Seconded by Singapore.</p> <p>Votes: For: 44. Against: 0. Abstain: 1.</p>

# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	The motion is passed.
88	<p>A family home page will be set up on the SI website to promote Servas as a family-friendly organization.</p> <p>This will provide access to a secure on-line forum, which will be a focal point for discussion between families with children and young people too young to travel alone. It will encourage links between families to develop common interests and activities.</p> <p>Moved by Britain. Seconded by Singapore.</p> <p>Votes: For: 44. Against: 0. Abstain: 1.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
89	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The DFC be called a Development Committee of SI.</li> <li>2) Instead of waiting for applications to fund (like the present DFC) it should be pro-active.</li> <li>3) The DC should encourage through regular communications to all of Servas (NS and EXCO plus monthly Servas News) the development project.</li> <li>4) Each NG as part of its strategic planning should include a development plan for the next three years. Where there are difficulties in this task the DC should find ways to assist the NG to develop its 3 year strategic plan.</li> <li>5) The DC will be pro-active in offering assistance to new/small member groups.</li> <li>6) The DC will be a facilitator and bridge between NG if and when various NG are interested in similar projects.</li> <li>7) The DC should be pro-active in fund raising to support Servas projects.</li> <li>8) The DC will establish relationships with youth and accommodate those members who wish to volunteer as assistants to the DC. The DC will also liaise with Area Coordinators to achieve objectives.</li> </ol> <p>Moved by Botswana. Seconded by Turkey.</p> <p>Votes: For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
90	The Spanish Translation Team presented a short video on the various

# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	regions of Argentina.
91	<p>Implement an online financial tool to control stamp fee, membership and other contributions.</p> <p>Moved by Denmark. Seconded by Germany.</p> <p>Votes: For: 30. Against: 6. Abstain: 10.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
92	<p>Three voting options be retained by distant vote and that sub clause 9 of section 7 in the Statutes be amended to read: “that distant voting process shall include three voting options for each motion “Support/Yes”, “Against/No”, and “Abstain”. And that “Abstain” votes shall not be counted as a vote for or against the motion”.</p> <p>Moved by New Zealand. Seconded by Malawi.</p> <p>Votes: For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
93	<p>“To consider and redefine the future of Servas in the light of our own roots and ideals of local communities and the world.</p> <p>“To learn from and interact with other organizations without ever losing our Servas identities.</p> <p>“To move forward into the digital age in creative and active ways, not only based on the Internet but on the needs of these new times, especially those needs that can find guidance and answers in Bob Luitweiler’s non-violent thinking.</p> <p>“To set up a working group to define short and long term goals and investigate strategies and action plans including youth and local community work.”</p> <p>Moved by Britain. Seconded by Botswana.</p> <p>Votes: For: 46. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p>

## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
94	<p>“We request the ‘Job descriptions and Statutes Committee’ to produce a list of functions for the position Area Coordinator, including the specific participation of the National Secretaries (NS) of the area in the elaboration of this final document.</p> <p>“We request to take these items produced during the Central America Regional Conference of Costa Rica as a starting point:</p> <p>“1. To hold as a minimum, an annual meeting with the National Groups (NG) of the area.</p> <p>“2. To interact with other Area Coordinators functioning as an ambassador from SI and as a representative from SI to the National Groups.</p> <p>“3. To know the procedure manual of SI.</p> <p>“4. To ensure that the National Secretaries respond immediately to the e-mail messages of SI.</p> <p>“5. All the information that the Area Coordinator will provide to Servas International must be known by the National Secretaries.”</p> <p>Moved by Costa Rica. Seconded by Botswana.</p> <p>Votes: For: 41. Against: 1. Abstain: 3.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
95	<p>Strengthen and implement the Financial Operating Procedures with the active help of the Audit Committee.</p> <p>Moved by Australia. Seconded by Belgium.</p> <p>Votes: For: 44. Against: 0. Abstain: 1.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
96	<p>“In part of the world where Servas home visits are not possible or are difficult due to cultural, political or economic situations, Servas to consider new case study projects related to Servas goals such as (1) to promote non-violent thinking, (2) to exchange cultural and language experiences, and (3) to build peace in harmony with the environment.</p> <p>“To establish a Servas project team, if needed, which the national groups can consult when they have an idea for a Servas project.</p> <p>“This team will evaluate the project and support the initiators in carrying it out.</p>



# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>“A project data bank to be started and maintained on line to keep track of/monitor projects in different areas and to inform about progress/success of projects and any lessons learned. “Responsibility to be with the Vice-President and Development Committee working with the project team and ICT.”</p> <p>Moved by Britain. Seconded by Pakistan.</p> <p>Votes: For: 43. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
97	<p>Marijke Batenburg, National Secretary of NZ, reporting to the General Secretary of Servas International will create a project team of three members to document and publish guidelines for National Secretaries and boards regarding how to handle feedback and complaints concerning hosts and travelers. A preliminary version will be submitted by October 2010 for comments and distribution electronically, to National Secretaries and boards for their comments.</p> <p>Moved by Canada. Seconded by Australia.</p> <p>Votes: For: 43. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
<p><b>September 12, 2009 (Day 6)</b> <b>Event/Motion</b></p>	
98	<p>Ghana be moved from member group to national group.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Germany</p> <p>Votes: For: 38. Against: 0. Abstain: 3.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
99	<p>Gambia and Ukraine be moved from member group to national group.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium, seconded by Pakistan.</p>

## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>Votes: For: 34. Against: 4, Abstain: 6.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
100	<p>Membership status of Nepal cancelled because there are two groups claiming to represent Servas.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Singapore.</p> <p>Votes: For: 36. Against: 4, Abstain: 4.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
101	<p>That Samoa lose membership with voting rights and be made a national group because it does not fulfill the requirements to be a member.</p> <p>Moved by Belgium. Seconded by Botswana.</p> <p>Votes: For: 42. Against: 0, Abstain: 2.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
102	<p>To appoint Vasudev Pai &amp; Company (of Bangalore, India) as the external auditor for Servas International for the years 2009 to 2013.</p> <p>Moved by New Zealand, seconded by Brazil.</p> <p>Votes: For: 42. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
103	<p>The Statutes of Servas International adopted at the 2006 General Assembly in Latina and as amended at this General Assembly at Mar del Plata, September 2009, be adopted as the Statutes of Servas International replacing all previous versions.</p> <p>Moved by New Zealand, seconded by Brazil.</p> <p>Votes: For: 43. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p>

# Servas International

## Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	The motion is passed unanimously.
104	<p>The General Assembly recognize the Servas Youth as an integral part of Servas International and that the words “Servas Youth International Coordinator” and “Youth Development Officer” be added to <b>Clause iii Officers</b> of SI Statutes, after the words “Servas International News Editor”.</p> <p>Moved by Australia, seconded by Singapore.</p> <p>Votes: For: 45. Against: 0. Abstain: 0.</p> <p>The motion is passed unanimously.</p>
105	<p>When a Servas country wants to make a donation to enable another country to send a delegate to participate in a GA, it must inform EXCO of this intent to donate. A request concerning the recipient(s) can be made but it is for EXCO and the relevant Area Coordinator, to use criteria to decide to which country/countries the money will go. After that decision, the money will go directly to the recipient(s).</p> <p>It is highly recommended that donor countries should respect EXCO’s decision.</p> <p>Moved by Germany, seconded by Uganda.</p> <p>Votes: For: 33. Against: 1. Abstain: 10.</p> <p>The motion is passed. Netherland voted against this motion.</p>
106	<p>Chris Patterson of Budget Group made the following announcement:</p> <p>There was a calculation error in yesterday’s budget “expenses youth meeting”. There was an error in percentages published: 26% decrease, not 18%. The figures were correct: \$8,000 noted in final version.</p> <p><b>Note: The budget attached as Appendix - 1 is the final, corrected version.</b></p>
107	<p>The next General Assembly be held in 2012.</p> <p>Moved by Germany. Seconded by Norway.</p>

## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	<p>Votes: For: 44. Against: 0. Abstain: 1.</p> <p>The motion is passed.</p>
108	Amir of Israel announced: The GA thanks Demelza of Malawi for all her work producing the daily newsletter.
109	<p>All the ballots (for SI elections) to be destroyed.</p> <p>Moved by New Zealand. Seconded by Uganda.</p> <p>The motion is passed. (Voting figures missing in the records)</p>
110	Mary Jane Mikuriya paid tributes to Bob Luitweiler, one of the founders of Servas. Bob wrote the history of Servas and had thirty two versions of the book titled, The Seeds of Servas. The cover was designed by the Peace Secretary of Servas Italy. Bob would probably be happy with this GA because GAs were too administrative, but this one was concerned with creating teams for building peace. Bob liked listening to people and asking hard questions.
111	Chris Patterson paid tribute to Ray Scott of New Zealand. He served as National Secretary of New Zealand and served for 23 years in Servas and also served as international secretary. He was a Rotarian, traveler, bicyclist and had resisted a robber. As a traveller he was wise. Several of his grandchildren said they earned pocket money wrapping the Servas newsletter.
112	Pramod Kumar paid tributes to Harivallabh Parikh, who was a Gandhian and had devoted his life to serving the poor and underprivileged at an 'Ashram' in India. When Bob Luitweiler visited this 'Ashram' in 1950, he said this was what he wanted Servas to do, and persuaded Harivallabh to establish Servas India. Harivallabh was so respected by the local people that they brought their disputes, including family disputes and property disputes to his 'People's Court' and accepted whatever judgment he passed. He was a shining example of a true Servas volunteer.
113	A minute of silence was observed in honour and memory of the three great people, Bob Luitweiler, Ray Scott and Harivallabh Parikh.
114	<p>President Gary Sealey's final comments:</p> <p>"Something happened here: not a fight, not a loss, not the end of something; it was a new beginning for Servas. We need a home. When you go home to your boards and communities, let us all tell what happened here this week, the new promise for Servas, the changes we work for, the new energy, out and in and through Servas".</p>

## Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2009

	"We have something to offer the world. Take it from here and give it as a gift to the world".
115	President Gary Sealey said, "We owe a huge debt to Servas Argentina" and thanked Servas Argentina, the Agenda Working Group, Penny Pattison, Pramod Kumar, Rita Dessauvage , Thomas Thomas, Harald Seiffert, and all the contributors to the SWGs.
116	Standing applause and thanks to the moderators, Chris Jones, Julie Dotsch and Cintia Amor.
117	To the translators and interpreters, "Merci beaucoup, gracias, danke, ...."
118	Standing ovation for Pablo Colangelo, who went round and shook hands with each GA participant.
119	Gary Sealey said, "Thanks to all. Now, let all of us follow up: everyone in Servas, travellers, interviewers, area coordinators, officers: build a strong team. This is a welcome, not a good-bye.
120	All the ballots (for SI elections) to be destroyed.  Moved by New Zealand. Seconded by Uganda.  The motion is passed. (Voting figures missing in the records)
121	Javier of Servas Colombia read his message of peace. Chris read a translation of the same.
122	From the moderators: "It is our honour to serve the GA".
123	The General Assembly at Mar del Plata was declared closed 1:23 PM, September 12, 2009.