

# Motion for Extraordinary Servas International General Assembly 2021 (E-SIGA 2021)

## 1. Heading for motion (No more than 10 words)

Amendment of Servas International Statutes (2018) for formal registration.

Abbreviation used: Servas International (SI)

## 2. SI Committee proposing motion (only SI Exco and Member Groups may propose motions)

Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco)

## 3. Exact wording of the motion to be voted on

The Extraordinary Servas International General Assembly (E-SIGA 2021) decides to amend the Servas International Statutes (2018) to allow for Servas International to formally register as a tax-exempt not-for-profit association registered under the Swiss Civil Code and receive a registration number. The draft version of the amended statutes is attached as Appendix – 1 to this motion. Once approved, it will become the official statutes of Servas International (as amended by 2021 E-SIGA).

**SI member groups may vote YES, NO or ABSTAIN on this motion.**

## 4. Reasons for proposing the motion and background information, including documents

### Reasons for proposing the motion to register SI

SI Exco is with this motion proposing changes to the SI Statutes (2018) which will allow for a formal registration of Servas International under the Swiss Civil Code. As a result, Servas International will become an acknowledged international not-for-profit non-Governmental organization (iNGO).

### Background

The initiative to formally register Servas International as an iNGO was decided and partly financed by SI GA 2015, with additional funding from SI GA 2018.

**The two SI GA decisions in 2015 and 2018 had a background in a SI Distant Vote** which in November 2011 authorized SI Exco to seek a suitable country in which to formally register SI. During the SI GA 2012, at the request of Servas Turkey, SI Vice President Pramod Kumar (who was acting SI President)

gave a summary of the status of SI Registration. Pramod Kumar informed SI GA that no suitable country had been found.

On 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2015 the SI GA made the following decision:

*“It is agreed to register Servas International (SI) as a recognized international non-governmental organisation (INGO) with a domicile, with a budget of 27000 CHF from the SI financial reserves for the period 2015-2018. This will include an international group of legal experts to ensure that SI is registered in a way that works effectively for all countries.”*

As a result of the work done by the previous SI Exco (2016–2018) and the current SI Exco (2019–2022), SI EXCO have identified some necessary amendments to our current statutes in order to get an application for formal registration approved by the Commercial Registry Office of the Canton of Zurich (Handelsregisteramt).

SI’s statutes require that the SI statutes should be amended at a SI General Assembly or – as in this case – at an Extraordinary SI General Assembly.

The following background documents are attached:

**E-SIGA 2021 appendix 1:**

Draft SI Statutes (2021) (final document)

English language (file name: Draft\_SI\_Statutes\_2021\_210602)

German language (file name: Statuten der Servas International German (2021))

**E-SIGA 2021 appendix 2:**

SI Statutes (2018) with highlighted amendments and explanatory comments

(file name: Draft\_SI\_Statutes\_changes\_for\_E\_SI\_GA\_2021\_210602 with explanatory comments.doc)

**E-SIGA 2021 appendix 3:**

InvaTrans translation agency document “Draft SI Statutes (2021)” in English and German. (file name: 2021 06 02 A090163\_Scan)

**5. Who is responsible for accomplishing the results of the motion?**

Name/names + function/functions:

SI Exco:

Jonny Sågänger (SI President) [president@servas.org](mailto:president@servas.org)

Radha B. Radhakrishna (SI Treasurer) [treasurer@servas.org](mailto:treasurer@servas.org)

Jim Leask & Paul Nielsen (SI Membership & Technology Secretary) [mts@servas.org](mailto:mts@servas.org)

Carla Kristensen (SI Vice President) [vicepresident@servas.org](mailto:vicepresident@servas.org)

Kiat Y Tan, SI General Secretary [generalsecretary@servas.org](mailto:generalsecretary@servas.org)

Paige Lacombe, SI Peace Secretary [peacesecretary@servas.org](mailto:peacesecretary@servas.org)

René Steimer, SI Exco's Servas Switzerland liaison.

## **6. Benefits for SI**

It has been pointed out by SI GA 2012, SI GA 2015 and SI GA 2018 as well as the SI Distant Vote of May 2021 that it's important that SI gets a formal registration.

- a) SI needs to get a formal registration to be recognized as an international non-governmental organisation, iNGO.
- b) A formal registration opens up opportunities for benefits. As a registered not-for-profit (iNGO), we may get better rates on or even free products and services, for example computer software.
- c) A formal registration is important for many financial services and for conducting some financial transactions under the new know your client (KYC) guideline requirements.
- d) It will potentially benefit Servas member groups in getting registration in their own jurisdiction, if they are able to provide documents that Servas International is registered.

## **7. Resource needs - time, human resources and specialist expertise**

SI Exco will be responsible for making the arrangements needed to hold a distant E-SIGA.

## **8. Budget implications**

A budget of CHF 10,000 was approved at SI General Assembly 2018. The budgeted amount represented the unspent balance from an allocation made at the previous SICOGA. To date, an amount of CHF 6,459 has been spent for registration. It is estimated that the registration will be completed within the allocated budget of CHF 10,000

## **9. Does it affect the SI statutes?**

Yes. The SI Statutes (2018) will be amended and replaced with SI Statutes (2021) as described in documents associated with this motion.

**10. What is the impact if the motion is not passed?**

- a) Servas country and members groups will continue to experience difficulties to get national registration and bank accounts as long as they are not able to present documents that verifies for their national authorities, banks et cetera that Servas International is a formally registered international non governmental organisation, iNGO.
- b) SI will continue to miss out from financial benefits, better rates on or even free products and services, for example computer software.
- c) SI will continue to have difficulties to do financial transactions due to KYC requirements.

**11. Additional information about the E-SIGA 2021**

In accordance with SI's statutes the E-SIGA 2021 is held after an approval by the SI member groups in a SI Distant Vote in May 2021.

Excerpt from SI Statutes (2018):

/.../

IV General Assembly

....

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.

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**For Minute Taker Use Only:**

**Amendments (Passed or defeated)**

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**Final Motion (Passed or defeated)**

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