

SI EXCO MOTION FOR SI DV NOVEMBER 2020

1. Heading for motion (No more than 10 words)
* Reschedule SI GA * SI Exco to continue one year * Develop virtual SI GA concept
2. Sender of the proposed SI DV motion (for example SI member group)
Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco)
3. Exact wording of the motion to be voted on
SI Exco's proposal: * To reschedule Servas International General Assembly (SI GA) planned for 2021 for one year to 2022. * The members of the current SI Exco will have their mandate periods extended for one year from 2021 to SI GA 2022. SI member groups may vote YES, NO or ABSTAIN on this motion.
4. Background information and reasons for proposing the motion
On October 20 2018 the SI GA decided to "hold the next Servas International General Assembly in about 3 years' time." (SI GA decision index number 106 Decision 54) https://servas.org/sicoga2018/motions/2018_11/SI_GA_2018_Decisions_V5.pdf The members of SI Exco, the elected global board of SI for 2019–2021, have the responsibility to make arrangements for the SI General Assembly (SI GA). However, the SI Exco's assessment shows that under current conditions it will not be able to arrange the event. The analysis is mainly based on these three factors: Coronavirus pandemic 1. The effects of the new coronavirus Sars-CoV-2 pandemic is challenging SI and the entire Servas community to its fundment. The pandemic is putting heavy restrictions on movement, which has major consequences for SI Exco's planning for the next SI GA. One of them is that the current core business of Servas – the hospitality program with overnight homestays – has become less attractive which decreases both SI's and the member groups monetary revenue. Another consequence is that it's currently uncertain whether it will be possible because of travel restrictions to hold a SI GA. No budget 2. The budget approved in SI GA 2018 for the period 2019–2021 made no provisions to finance a SI GA in 2021. During SI GA 2018 delegates discussed the possibility that Servas should separately raise donations to strengthen the finances of SI and the Servas movement. However, there were no decisions made during the assembly and so far there have been no concrete proposals presented to – or by – SI Exco for the mission to raise money. The SI GA is SI's main body for decision making on business matters and elections of volunteers for Servas officer positions. This foundation for democratic decision making is at risk unless there will be financing and practical arrangements to carry out the event. Planning for future SI GAs 3. A rescheduling of the next SI GA gives the current SI Exco time needed to develop a concept for a combined virtual and physical conference. This plan will be in line with the following SI GA 2018 decision (Serial number 35, decision 20): <i>Improve Servas International Conference and General Assembly, SICOGA (EXC-017)</i> <i>A team named SICOGA Development Team, SDT, will be appointed by the SI Exco for 2019-2021 to lead the project to develop the concept for the traditionally triannual Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA).</i> <i>Two main goals have been identified:</i> <i>a) Introduction of measures to increase active and passive participation from the Servas community by members of Servas who are not able to be physically present at the venue in the country where the SICOGA takes place.</i> <i>b) Introduction of measures to minimize the environmental impact of the SICOGAs.</i> https://servas.org/sicoga2018/motions/2018_11/SI_GA_2018_Decisions_V5.pdf

History and future of of SI General Assembly

Servas International has traditionally arranged a SI GA during a conference. The most recent events gave been labeled SI Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA).

In the SI Handbook on the SI website servas.org there are historic records from conferences since 1964 and onwards.

https://servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/handbook/2019/SI_Handbook_20190226_v2.pdf

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

Name/names + function/functions: SI Exco (task force: Jonny Sågänger, SI President, Kiat Y Tan, SI General Secretary, Radha B. Radhakrishna, SI Treasurer)

Email: exco@servas.org + president@servas.org

6. Benefits for SI

Rescheduling the next SI GA gives SI Exco the possibility to handle the difficulties related to the planning for a SI GA 2021, and to plan for future virtual SI GAs. The overarching benefit is that a new schedule for the next SI GA will:

- * Support the preservation of Servas' federative and democratic governance model.
- * Give SI Exco time to develop and adapt the SI GA concept to the contemporary global information and communication society.

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

SI Exco will need to consult persons with expertise in arranging virtual processes and meetings with up to 100–150 participants voting on business matters and elections of Servas key persons/officers.

8. Budget implications

SI Exco's ambition is that a future SI GA with the slogan "Digital first SI GA" will cost less for SI to arrange than what has historically has been the case.

9. Does it affect the SI statutes?

No. There's no mention of frequency of the SI GAs in the SI Statutes (2018).

Excerpt from the statutes:

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.

https://servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/other_files/2019/Servas_International_Statutes_SI_GA_2018.pdf

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

The SI GA is SI's main body for decision making on business matters and elections of volunteers for Servas officer positions.

This foundation for democratic decision making is at risk unless there will be financing and practical arrangements to carry out the event.

For Minute Taker Use Only:

Amendments (Passed or defeated)

Final Motion (Passed or defeated)

* Footnote 1: A motion for inclusion in the next SI Distant Vote (SI DV) may be submitted to the SI President when requested by at least one tenth of the SI member groups (represented by their National Secretaries), or by any member of the SI Executive Committee (SI Exco). All motions submitted by member groups must be sent to the SI President at least four months before the scheduled closing date for the vote to be included in a Distant Vote.

Source: SI Statutes (2018)

https://servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/other_files/2019/Servas_International_Statutes_SI_GA_2018.pdf

The motions to be decided in a SI Distant Vote must be sent by SI Exco to SI member groups at least 3 months before the close of voting.

You find further information and deadlines for the SI DV instructions on SIs website

<https://servas.org/en/distant-vote>

* Footnote 2.

Abbreviations used: N/A (not applicable)