

Servas Tanzania to become SI member group

**Heading for motion (No more than 10 words)**

SI Exco proposes that Servas Tanzania is accepted as a Servas Member Group through a SI Distant Vote (SI DV) of May 2021.

**Exco member proposing motion:**

Jonny Sågänger, SI Exco 2018-2022, in cooperation with SI Membership Team (SI MT)

**Brief summary of the motion:**

SI Exco proposes that the Servas member groups decides that the country group Servas Tanzania is accepted as a Servas member group through a SI Distant Vote (SI DV) of May 2021.

**Background information and reasons for proposing the motion:**

SI Exco – in cooperation with the SI Membership Team (SI MT) – makes the conclusion that the Servas Tanzania country group meets the criteria to be accepted as a Servas International member group.

We recommend the SI member groups votes for our proposal based on these reasons:

- \* All 22 members of Servas Tanzania have complete profiles in the ServasOnline System.
- \* Servas Tanzania has 4 key persons.

**Membership: Extract from the SI Statutes 2018**

1. Any national Servas group containing ten or more personally confirmed hosts (including day hosts) and three defined contact persons, may become, or be reinstated as, a member group of Servas International by a majority vote of the General Assembly. One host is defined as one household sharing the same home address.  
A group may be proposed for membership by
  - a. direct application by the group; or
  - b. recommendation from a Servas International Area Coordinator; or Committee; or 2
  - c. invitation from the General Assembly.
2. The obligations of a member group to Servas International consist of, and are limited to, paying fees, doing annual host list updates, submitting annual reports, and of following the regulations and procedures as decided by the General Assembly according to Section IV, 3f of the statutes.
3. Except under special circumstances, a member group will lose its membership in Servas International by majority vote of the General Assembly if
  - a. it has been without a functioning national secretary for two consecutive years; or

- b. it has fewer hosts than in subsection 1) above for two consecutive years; or
- c. it does not fulfil its obligations for two consecutive years.

\* Lourenco Gonsalves, the National Secretary of Tanzania, attended the SI Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA) 2018 in South Korea. In 2017 he attended the African Regional & Youth Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda and in 2011 Lourenco attended the African Regional & Youth Meeting in Kampala, Uganda

Lourenco Gonsalves has submitted a report with background information about Servas Tanzania.

\*Joseph Lestang Member of SI ServasOnline Team has submitted 1) a report about his meetings with Servas Tanzania and 2) a recommendation to accept Servas Tanzania as a Servas Member Group.

**Likely benefits for Servas International and national groups if the motion is passed:**

With a growing number of member groups Servas and Servas International is strengthened as an organisation.

**Resource implications if the motion is passed in terms of time, human resources and specialist expertise:**

The administrative work with incorporating Servas Tanzania in SI is mainly handled by the SI Membership Team.

**What are the budget implications, if any, of the motion for Servas International in the short and longer term?**

There is no short term financial implication.

A possible long term implication is that Servas Tanzania and Servas International will retrieve membership fees or fees for Letters of Introduction (LOI) from Tanzanian members with profiles in the ServasOnline System.

**What are the budget implications, if any, of the motion for national groups, in the short and longer term?**

See box above.

**Identify who should be responsible for the actions arising from the motion in terms of planning, development and management, for example which officer within SI Exco or SI Committee:**

SI Membership Team (SI MT).

**Would there be any implications for the Servas International statutes if the motion is passed?**

No.

What is the likely impact if the motion is **not** passed?

SI will miss an opportunity to get the new energy and stimuli which is generated when the SI network of member group grows.

Servas Tanzania's individual members will not get access to SI's structure and system for decision making that comes with member group membership.

SI member groups are for example eligible for voting at SI Distant Voting and SI General Assemblies.

## REPORT ON SERVAS TANZANIA

Written by: National Secretary – Lourenco Gonsalves.

January 2021

### 1. **Background:**

Servas Tanzania (ST) was founded in around 1986. By 1988 it had 5 members. The first NS was Henry Bantu followed by Peter Mwenisongole from 1999. Peter died in September 2020. ST had 12 members in 2012. ST was basically inactive for almost a decade. During Servas Africa 2017 meeting in Rwanda, Lourenco Gonsalves took over from September 2017 as the Main Contact with 7 members.

### 2. **Joining ServasOnline**

ST shifted to ServasOnline (SOL) in January 2018. The Rwanda 2017 meeting had a topic on shifting to SOL. We were one of the few early entrants in SOL.

### 3. **Key Persons.**

ST conducted its first election in January 2019. We had 26 members. The results were:

- a. Lourenco Gonsalves – National Secretary, from Zanzibar.
- b. Grace Francis – Host List Coordinator, from Dar-es-Salaam.
- c. Hamis Samike – Treasurer, from Arusha.
- d. Terri Place – Peace Secretary, from Arusha.

The tenure of the office bearers is three years. Next election is expected in January 2022.

### 4. **Members in ST**

Since January 2018, we took special effort to increase our membership. The maximum we had was 34 members by end of 2019. Currently, we are 22, 14 male and 8 female. Out of 12 that we lost, 5 were not contactable anymore, one resigned as he became senior government official, one went back home USA, one expired and four lost interest. Only one member joined last year, in March 2020, the latest one.

### 5. **Joining ST**

Each applicant is given a softcopy of SI Handbook to read and understand the concept of Servas.

Eleven applicants expressed interest to join ST in 2018-19 but did not complete the joining process. They were rejected after waiting for 6+ months. To date we have other 3 pending applicants. Applicants are interviewed. The common question asked is: *What benefits do you expect to gain if you become a SERVAS member?*

The common misconception among applicants is: Servas is an exit route to developed countries and expecting financial gain by hosting travelers. Approved applicants are those who agree to the ideals and principles of Servas.

As per norms, no adverts are done to lure applicants.

## **6. Registration of ST**

An attempt to register ST officially with the authorities proves difficult. The main obstacle is: Tanzania is a union of two countries and each has its own laws/authority. This and other bureaucratic/financial problems can be overcome. We decided to handle the issue when we are about 35+ members strong.

## **7. Meetings of ST**

We had three sub-meetings at three locations – Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam and Arusha in December 2019 and January 2020. We could not possibly convene one full meeting due to financial and timing constraints. That was our first Annual General Meeting!! The agenda was the same. Each meeting wrote its own minutes.

## **8. Finances**

Annual membership contribution for ST was agreed TZS 6,000 (USD 2.6) commencing January 2019. This nominal fee is imposed to create a sense of commitment to ST. 90% of members had paid. An amount of TZS 6,000 monthly is given to National Secretary mainly for communications expenses. We exempted the membership contribution for 2020 due to corona.

## **9. Activities organized by ST**

We are in a dilemma. As we are not registered, we cannot organize any activity publicly. Moreover, we are few members and scattered across the country to do any meaningful activity. Besides, corona decelerated our efforts to consolidate ST in whole of 2020. However, our Peace Secretary organized peace activity in her school on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020. The pupils sang, cleaned streets and played peace games. ST submitted two ambitious programs to the SI Making Connections Directory 2019.

## **10. International and regional meetings**

- a. Africa Regional & Youth Meeting, August 2011, Kampala, Uganda. Attended by the then National Secretary (late) Peter Mwenisongole and Lourenco Gonsalves.
- b. Africa Regional & Youth Meeting, August 2017, Kigali, Rwanda. Attended by Lourenco Gonsalves who was proposed and later approved to be the Main Contact of ST.
- c. SICOGA 2018, Seoul, Korea. Attended by Lourenco Gonsalves as an Observer.

I had bought air ticket three months in advance to attend Africa Regional & Youth Meeting at Gaborone, Botswana planned for January, 2014. Later it was cancelled due to low attendance response. I used the ticket, flew to South Africa and spent 10 days hosted by four families. Excellent holiday!!

## **11. Future plans of ST**

- a. Recruit one new member a month for the next three years. .
- b. Get government registration of ST in 2022.
- c. Organize activities in 2022 – clean public areas, blood donation, peace awareness, fight domestic violence, climate change awareness.
- d. Convene Africa Regional & Youth Meeting in 2025

## **12. Why Servas Tanzania wants to become a Servas Member Group**

Tanzania joined Servas more than 34 years ago. Unfortunately, it was inactive for a decade during the analogue age. Communications were difficult. We intend to revive the lost glory. We are adding more enthusiastic members who are interested in diversity of culture, languages and religions beyond our own frontiers. We are the land of Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar. It is a great destination for many travelers. We are well located geographically. We are rich in wildlife and beaches.

Tanzania is a peaceful country, the only union of two sovereign countries. Our level of democracy is above average. Our national language is not tribal and is now an indigenous lingua franca of Africa. Our people are friendly – a collection of 120 tribes. We have no excuses now to remain dormant in Servas. We regard Servas as a tool towards upgraded civilization. We are one missing piece of jig-saw puzzle which, if placed correctly, will make the Servas map much clearer.

We are dedicated to promote the Servas spirit. We are willing to contribute to the Servas management at least to the Africa regional level. We understand this is mainly volunteer work. ST has 4 motivated key persons.

If we become Member Group, I believe the benefit will be mutual.

## **Servas Meetings in Tanzania - December 2020**

Marie-Line and Joseph Lestang, French Servas members

In December 2020, we went to Zanzibar (Tanzania) for Marie-line's work and for some holidays.

Due to the Covid pandemic, we did not ask to be hosted by Servas members, but we had several meetings with Servas members living in Stone Town, the capital of Zanzibar.

As a member of the ServasOnLine international team, I had already been in contact with Lourenco Gonsalves NS from Tanzania.

We had many email exchanges with Lourenco prior to our trip.

We had a first meeting with Lourenco over dinner on our arrival. We discussed Tanzania, Servas International and many other topics.

He organised a first meeting with 6 members of Servas living in Stone Town. We had a working session on servas.org to help them complete their profiles. Then I participated with him in the interview of a new member. After working on servas.org we had a discussion about Servas, the organisation of Servas International and many topics concerning Servas, travel and peace.

At the end of our stay we had another meeting with Lourenco and two of the members, Lailat and Sophia. They wanted to discuss how to receive a passing Servas host, how it was done in Europe, Asia or America, how to look for a Host, what to put on their LOI.... Lourenco had prepared some snacks.

In conclusion, the Servas members we met in Zanzibar were all very motivated, and very eager to meet other Servas, to get information about other Servas groups.

I was very surprised to learn that Tanzania was not a "Member" of Servas International. In my work of helping different Servas groups and during my many travels, I have known many Servas groups, and Tanzania seemed to me one of the most motivated, with young members and eager to make nice encounters.

They are 22 members to date, they have a membership fee, a host list up to date as of January 2021 and 4 Key peoples.

**It's why, I recommend to accept Tanzania as a Servas Group Member.**

Joseph Lestang

Member of the International ServasOnLine Team