GPUS/FPVA Correspondence – July 2020 to May 2022

July 2020 – FPVA to GPUS

Dear Steering Committee Co-Chairs,
Anita Rios, Ohio
Gloria Mattera, New York
Kristin Combs, Pennsylvania
Margaret Elizabeth, Washington
Tamar Yager, Virginia
Tony Ndege, North Carolina
Trahern Crew, North Carolina
Green Party of United States,

As you know, on November 29-30 and December 1, 2019, the XX Annual General Assembly of the FPVA was held in the Dominican Republic.

During this 2019 General Assembly were reformed and approved the Internal Regulations of the Federation, which were presented and extensively discussed in detail at the 2018 Cartagena General Assembly. We are sending you in an attach file the final document of FPVA Internal Regulations.

We especially want to draw your attention to the issue of membership: “Art. 3 ° The parties, movements and political-environmental organizations that want to form or wish to continue being part of the FPVA, can't be nor will not be able to affiliate to other international political organizations, at the exception of the Global Greens, of which they are part by belonging to the FPVA.”

Considering that FPVA was informed by the Global Greens Convener that the Green Party of the United States (GPUS) was pursuing an affiliation to the Sao Paulo Forum, we respectfully remind you that this situation is incompatible with your membership in the FPVA and therefore in the Global Greens.

It is our greatest wish that the GPUS will continue to be a member of the FPVA and of Global Greens, the only continental and global organization that brings together the Green parties of our region and the world under the values of political ecology; in opposition to political organizations that define themselves in terms of left or right.

Therefore, we hope that you will continue to be Greens and send us an official notice as soon as possible indicating that your party has ceased to appertain to the Sao Paulo Forum.

Our sincere wishes for success in all the work and political actions of the Green Party of United States.

Cordially
Antolin Polanco, Executive Co-Chair; Patricia Maldonado, Co-Chair; Margot Soria,Co-Chair

August 9, 2020 – GPUS to FVPA

Dear FPVA Co-Presidents,
Antolin Polanco,
Patricia Maldonado,
Margot Soria,

In response to your letter of July 2020 regarding "Art. 3 ° of the FPVA internal regulations", we request that you "grandmother" us in, and make an exception in this case. Because this policy was passed after our initiation and we never agreed to abide by such a requirement we do not see how we can be held to a rule that did not exist when we aided in the formation of this organization and became members. It is a great honor for us to be founding members of the FPVA and we would be delighted to continue being a part of FPVA and Global Greens.

As you know, the National Committee of the Green Party of the United States voted to join the Sao Paulo Forum last year when FPVA had not yet adopted this exclusionary policy. Our National Committee engages in voluminous discussions when considering proposals, a long and cumbersome process. Delegates would find it burdensome to revisit this issue so soon after having reached agreement.

Furthermore, we note that the Sao Paulo Forum is not an international political organization, but rather, a loose alliance of organizations with similar goals and/or values which meet each year. It is better referred to as an annual meeting, or as the name suggests, a "forum". Many of these aforementioned values are in line with political ecology, and our presence at their annual meeting is a means to build bridges and spread the Green way. As a founding member of FPVA, the Green Party of the United States has proudly watched it grow into an organization with movements in much of the Americas. This was accomplished by looking beyond just our allies in the room, and it is this same vision of bridge building which motivates our newly formed link with the Sao Paulo Forum. As we continue in our endeavors to grow and propel the Green movement forward, we hope that we will not be hampered by exclusionary policies which will only keep us small.

In peace, and towards a Green future
Green Party of the United States Steering Committee

August 24, 2020 – FPVA to GPUS

Dear Steering Committee
Trayhern Crews, Co-chair, Minnesota

Tony Ndege, Co-chair, North Carolina
Gloria Mattera, Co-chair, New York
Tamar Yager, Co-chair, Virginia
Margaret Elizabeth, Co-chair, Washington
Anita Rios, Co-chair, Ohio
Hillary Kane, Treasurer, Pennsylvania
David Gerry, Secretary, Massachusetts Green Party of United States

The Federation of Green Parties of the Americas recognizes the Green Party of the United States (GPUS) as one of its founding members and reiterates its desire that it shall continue to be a member of the FPVA and therefore of the Global Greens. However, no organization can survive if it is incapable of respecting its own rules and the decisions democratically voted by its members. Just as we have reiterated our desire that GPUS remains with the FPVA and the Global Greens, we reiterate that it is impossible to make any exceptions that would imply the breach of our internal laws voted and legitimately approved by the General Assembly of the FPVA member parties whose will must be respected.

On the first point of your letter: (... because this policy was passed after our initiation, and we never agreed to abide by such an requirement, we do not see how we can be held to a rule that did not exist when we aided in the formation of this organization), we respectfully remind you that our statutes clearly establish in Article 11 that it is the responsibility of the General Assembly to approve and modify the regulations. Therefore, the current regulations are legitimate and legally binding on all FPVA members, regardless of when they joined.

Regarding the second point: (...the National Committee of the Green Party of the United States voted to join the Sao Paulo Forum last year when FPVA had not yet adopted this exclusionary policy.), we regret that your FPVA representatives have not adequately informed the GPUS Steering Committee in due time and form. The FPVA learned of GPUS's intentions to enter the Forum through the Global Greens Convener, who was consulted by a GPUS executive about the possibility of belonging to the two organizations. Representative Bahram Zandi was immediately informed that it was unacceptable, that there was already decided a change in the regulations in this regard and that the wording would be presented during the General Assembly at the next annual meeting in 2019. All of this before your National Committee meeting. Had you have been properly informed by your representative, this situation could have been avoided.

It is important to establish that the decisions of the General Assembly are made in a democratic and transparent manner, by direct and public vote, after presentations and sometimes long discussions. The current regulation was discussed by the General Assembly with the participation of the GPUS representation and was approved by an absolute majority of votes of the member parties present in the General Assembly. We are sorry to hear your comment on “exclusion”. We have reiterated clearly and on several occasions that the FPVA expects GPUS to continue participating in our federation and

therefore in the Global Greens to which they belong as part of the FPVA. As a member of FPVA, like all other members, GPUS has the obligation to comply with the regulations and decisions of the General Assembly.

So, it is GPUS who decides whether or not it belongs to our organization. It is GPUS who would otherwise be choosing to leave the FPVA and Global
Greens in order to maintain an affiliation within another international political organization, and unfortunately there would be nothing we could do to retain you.

We hope you let us know your decision before the end of this month. If no answer is received, we would have to assume that you have decided to leave our organization and in the same way we will inform the Global Greens.

Cordially,
Antolin Polanco Executive,Co-Chair
Patricia Maldonado,Co-Chair
Margot Soria,Co-Chair

August 24, 2020 – GPUS to FPVA

Dear FPVA officers,
Antolin Polanco,
Patricia Maldonado,
Margot Soria,

It was with great disappointment that we read your letter of August 24th,mIt is unfortunate that you will not accept a middle ground to grandmother
us into this rule change. While we stand by our arguments laid out in our previous letter, we point out that The Green Party of the United States is not currently a member of the Sao Paulo Forum. Although a vote was taken by our national committee to allow us to join the forum that action was never taken. As we have not had the opportunity to officially join SPF due to its cancellation this year. We are not in violation of any FPVA rules.

As to your assertions regarding our representative Bahram Zandi we hope that this conversation will remain among our two organizations and not be reduced to personal accusations.

In addition we request that you place this issue on the agenda for the upcoming FPVA meeting for all members to vote on. It is our intention to be in attendance and for our delegates to advocate for the removal of this rule. We also request the documentation of the meeting where Art. 3 ° of the FPVA internal regulations was enacted, including what the vote count was.

We in the GPUS feel that we bear a particular burden of the damage done throughout the hemisphere by the abusive and intrusive policies and actions of our government. It is our sincerest desire to not repeat mistakes of the past so we seek to expand our knowledge of the peoples and the issues throughout the Americas. This is our motivation for needing to participate as broadly as possible in the political dialogues of the people of the Americas through diverse organizations. As mentioned earlier, we are not currently members of the Sao Paulo Forum and are not in violation of any FPVA rules. We hope to continue this dialogue and to work towards a mutually agreeable common ground where we can remain within the FPVA and also participate in the SPF in some manner.

Towards a better world,
The Steering Committee of the Green Party of the US
Trayhern Crews, Co-chair, Minnesota
Tony Ndege, Co-chair, North Carolina
Gloria Mattera, Co-chair, New York
Tamar Yager, Co-chair, Virginia
Margaret Elizabeth, Co-chair, Washington
Anita Rios, Co-chair, Ohio
Hillary Kane, Treasurer, Pennsylvania
David Gerry, Secretary, Massachusetts

May 9, 2022 – FPVA to GPUS

Dear Green Party of the United States:

We have been unofficially informed of the deliberations taking place in the International Committee regarding memberships in the Federation of Green Parties of the Americas and the Global Greens.

The FPVA considers it important that the following information be made known to interested parties.

Two years ago, GPUS delegates informed FPVA of their intention to join the international organization Sao Paulo Forum. From the first moment, the FPVA stated to them that the rules of our organization do not allow to be part of other international political organizations and keep being FPVA members. From that moment on and for two years, both in General Assemblies and through communiqués at various times, delegates and other authorities of the GPUS have been asked to remain in the FPVA where their presence is valued and their status as founding members is recognized. The FPVA requested that to bring the matter to a close, the GPUS should send an official letter stating their decision to remain in the FPVA, making it clear that they will not join the Sao Paulo Forum.

At our most recent FPVA General Assembly, there was a discussion among the delegates as to whether or not the Green Party of the United States was a member of the Sao Paulo Forum as

the letter was never received and the GPUS International Committee website lists the names of delegates to the Sao Paulo Forum. The GPUS delegates present at the Assembly stated that although the United States was not currently a member of the Forum because they had not been able to meet with the Sao Paulo Forum to formalize, they had not abandoned the idea of joining that organization. The Assembly again let them know that they would be in violation of regulations and that although the FPVA valued their participation, it was imperative that they submit an official document stating that they were not members of the Sao Paulo Forum.

As two years had passed, delegates proposed that they should lose their full's membership and pass unto observer's Federación de Partidos Verdes de las Américas/- Federation of Green Parties of the Americas / Fédération de Partis Verts des Amériques /- Federação dos Partidos Verdes das Américas FPVA membership pending the submission of the document. The proposal was voted on and accepted by the majority. All of the above has been a transparent democratic process in compliance with the FPVA statutes and regulations. It is not a particular issue with the GPUS, other parties have been subjected to this same rule. It is important to note for example that the Alianza Verde de Colombia lost not only its full's membership but even its observer's membership for the same reason. In order to be reinstated in the FPVA, which they did and we appreciate in all its value, the Colombian Greens presented to the General Assembly not only an official letter stating that they were no longer members of the Sao Paulo Forum but also publications in their digital media informing about their resignation to the Forum in order to re-join the FPVA and the Global Greens.

We reiterate here our deep desire to continue collaborating with our green sisters and brothers in the United States. We sincerely believe that their destiny is with the Global Greens community. As agreed at the General Assembly, it will be sufficient for the FPVA to receive an official communication from the GPUS clarifying in writing their desire to keep being FPVA members in full, abandoning the idea to become members of the Sao Paulo Forum. Upon receipt of such correspondence, the FPVA membership status of the GPUS will be restored. This will restore the GPUS delegates' voting ability within the FPVA, and retain the GPUS' full membership status in the Global Greens.

We look forward to hearing from you

Sincerely
Leonardo Álvarez – Co-Chair, Alejandro Aguilera – Executive Co-Chair, Flor de María Hurtad – Co-Chair