

GSEF2016 Montreal General Assembly (GA)

Date: 14:00 - 16:30, 9th September 2016

Venue: 5th floor, Room 524, Palais des congrès, Montreal, Canada

* Chaired by the co-Chairmen of GSEF: Mayor Won-Soon Park (Seoul), Rev. Kyong Yong Song (SSEN)

Attendees (Representatives): 26 participants representing 16 organizations

* Refer to the annex attachment I for the full list of attendees)

Agenda Items

NO.	Agenda
0	Validation of the Voting Rights
1	Adoption of the Agenda
2	Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly in 2014
3	Approval of New Membership Application
4	Election of Chair-City & Co-Chair of GSEF for 2016-2018
5	Election of New Steering Committee Members for 2016-2018
6	Decision of the Host City of the Next General Assembly in 2018
7	Amendment of the GSEF Charter
8	Discussion and Decision on the Membership Fee Payment
9	Discussion and Decision on Achieving Legal Entity of the GSEF Secretariat
10	Approval of the Activity and Financial Report for 2014-2016
11	Adoption of the Program of Activities and Budget for 2016-2018
12	Report on C.I.T.I.E.S and Discussion on the Articulation and Sharing Roles & Responsibilities between GSEF and CITIES
13	Request to Become a Member of International Networks
14	Other Business.

Results of GA (General Assembly) Discussion

The Co-chairman of GSEF, Mayor of Seoul Won-Soon Park welcomed all members who were present at the GA and gave thanks for their active participation at the 2016 Montreal Forum. Co-chairman Mayor Park convened the GA by emphasizing the importance of GA as the highest decision making body and officially announced the opening of the 2nd General Assembly of GSEF after its first meeting in 2014 in Seoul. Afterwards, Co-chairman Mayor Park invited the Secretary General (SG) Laurence Kwark to brief everybody how the GA will proceed.

* As Co-chairman Mayor Park and the Councilor of Bilbao (Xabier Iñigo Ochandiano) were only able to attend the first half of the GA due to other commitments, the SG suggested that first part of the GA will

discuss and decide up to the agenda items No. 0-6, and will shortly adjourn to allow Co-chairman Mayor Park, the delegations of Bilbao and Mondragon to leave to the airport and will continue with the items No. 7 – 14. .

AGENDA 0. VALIDATION OF THE VOTING RIGHTS

The SG invited each GSEF member as well as observer who were presented at the GA to briefly introduce themselves. After the introductions, the SG reported to the Chairperson that 14 out of 19 GSEF full members attended and 1 member (Association of Korean Local Governments for Social Economy and Solidarity) submitted the proxy to the Chairperson. The SG announced that the quorum was met (14/19) as over two third of the GSEF members attended the GA thereby charter amendments can be made through the GSEF2016 GA. In accordance with the announcement, the voting rights of the members were also validated.

AGENDA 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairperson requested the SG to explain in more details about the agenda items to be approved by the GA. The SG briefly introduced the list of agenda items firstly reviewed by the Steering Committee (SC) and with a recommendation of SC, the list was presented to the GA. philSEN (Lurina Gargarita) proposed the GA to adopt the agenda items and the proposal was seconded by Chantier hence the GA officially adopted the agenda items to be discussed and decided through the meeting.

AGENDA 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2014

Upon the request of the Chairperson, the SG introduced the main decisions made through the GSEF 2014 inaugural meeting, which was the first GA took place in Seoul (Korea). Three key decisions were made through the inaugural meeting;

1. Adoption of the GSEF Charter
2. Election of the first GSEF Chair-city (Seoul): Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) / Seoul Social Economy Network (SSEN)
3. Decision to host the GSEF2016 (2nd GA, 3rd forum) in Montreal

The SG explained that the decisions made through the GSEF2014 and the minutes and the decisions should be formally adopted by the current GA. After the briefing from the SG, Chantier proposed the motion to approve the main decisions and philSEN seconded the motion, hence the GA officially approved the main decisions of the GSEF2014 inaugural meeting.

** Refer to the Annex A.1. (page.2) to check out the details of the GA 2014 minutes and Annex M. for the GSEF Charter*

AGENDA 3. APPROVAL OF NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Chairperson requested the SG to explain the next agenda item to present to the GA. The SG announced that since the last SC meeting on 2015 Nov in Seoul, officially five new members have applied to become the member of GSEF association, the five new members consist three local governments and two international networks of SSE organization:

- a) Three local governments: Bilbao (Spain), Taichung (Taiwan), Bamako City (Mali: the first African city to join the GSEF association)
- b) Two international networks of SSE: RIPESS, The Mont-Blanc Meetings (MBM)

The SG announced that submitted applications have been studied by the SC and with a recommendation of SC, the SG proposed the GA to approve the five new membership applications. philSEN proposed to accept the proposal, then Chantier seconded the motion thereafter the GA members unanimously approved new members with applause.

AGENDA 4. ELECTION OF CHAIR-CITY & CO-CHAIR OF GSEF FOR 2016 – 2018

The Chairperson suggested to move on to the agenda item 4; election of chair-city and co-chairs for the period of 2016-2018 then asked the SG to explain the agenda item in more details. The SG explained to the GA that the City of Seoul has been expressed its intention to renew its mandate as a chair-city. As there was no other city who applied, with a recommendation of SC, the SG proposed the GA to approve the City of Seoul's candidacy. The motion proposed by Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy (Marguerite Mendell) to support the proposal, seconded by philSEN, the GA warmly congratulated Seoul to renew its mandate as the chair-city; chair-city and co-chairmen of GSEF remain to be the City of Seoul (SMG: Mayor Won-Soon Park, SSEN: Rev. Kyong Yong Song). Co-chairman Mayor Park responded to the approval of the GA by extending gratitude to everyone for supporting Seoul to become the chair city of GSEF and expressed his willingness to work for the development of GSEF

** Refer to the Annex B. (page 8-10) for the official letters of intent from Seoul and SSEN.*

AGENDA 5. ELECTION OF NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016 - 2018

Upon the request of the Chairperson, the SG pointed out that currently ten GSEF members consist the GSEF Steering Committee (SC): two city governments and 8 SSE organizations. And in terms of geographical composition of the SC:
two members representing Europe (Groupe SOS, Locality), the other two members from North America (City of Montreal, Chantier) and the rests are coming from Asia. The SG stressed that the GSEF to put its efforts on

- a) balancing its geographical representation by incorporating more members from the continents where GSEF has a weak representation (Africa and Latin America)
- b) better balance in the ratio between local governments and SSE networks.

Thereafter, the SG introduced the new SC member candidates (examined by the SC and with a recommendation of SC, presented to the GA) and the SG invited the representatives of the international networks of SSE to the current SC members.

	Name of Organization	Category
1	City of Bilbao	Local Government
2	Mont Blanc Meeting	SSE Network/Organization
3	RIPESS	SSE Network/Organization

RIPESS (Yvon Poirer) responded to the request by emphasizing the fact that RIPESS is present in 56 different countries and as the GSEF aims to develop its networks in Africa and Latin America, RIPESS can assist the efforts through working closely together to develop networks in the continents. After the introduction, the SG pointed out that the City of Bilbao, although they did not express their intention of becoming the SC member of GSEF, according to the GSEF Charter, city who is going to host the next GA is automatically becomes the SC.

With the review of the SC and the recommendation, the GA, formally approved RIPESS, the Mont-Blanc Meetings and City of Bilbao to be the new GSEF SC members and the current GSEF SC members to renew their mandates for the period of 2016-2018. Co-chairman Mayor Park welcomed new SC members and expressed his expectation that the GSEF's global position will be reinforced through the elected the new SC and thanks to the support.

** Refer to the Annex C. (page 11-12) to find out the letters of intent from RIPESS and MBM*

AGENDA 6. DECISION OF THE HOST CITY FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

Upon the request of the Chairperson, the SG introduced the efforts of Bilbao in hosting the GSEF2018 to the GA by praising Bilbao that in a very short period time the City of Bilbao mobilized the support of the Basque country through a participatory approach; gained support from both local governments and SSE organizations in the region.

The SG invited a representative of Bilbao City to present its willingness to host the GSEF2018 to the GA. Councilor Xabier Iñigo Ochandiano stated that for the City of Bilbao, it is an honor to make the proposal to host the GA and forum. Councilor Ochandiano reminded the GA about the close tie between Bilbao and the GSEF as the current Mayor of Bilbao participated in the first GSEF forum in 2014, with the current Mayor of Mondragon. Councilor Ochandiano also assured the GA that Bilbao as the capital city of Basque country, will work closely together with all families of the SSE in Basque as well as with the team of Seoul and Montreal for the successful launch of the forum.

The SG informed the GA that the Secretariat has received support letters from 4 local governments and 6 supporting letters from the SSE networks in Basque to support the Bilbao's candidacy and with the recommendation of SC, the SG presented the GA to elect Bilbao as a host city of GSEF2018. The GA, unanimously approved the City of Bilbao's application to host the GSEF 2018 (3rd GA and 4th forum).

The SG also mentioned that there have been informal requests from other cities to be the host city of GSEF2018, however, as the City of Bilbao was already in the process of reviewing as the next host city, The other requests were declined, as they have not submitted their formal requests by written letters 90 days prior to the GA (according to the Charter chapter 3, article 6.3-2)

Candidate City: City of Bilbao

Mayor: Juan Maria Aburto, Letter of Intent is received on June 6th, 2016.

Supporting organizations: * Refer to the Annex J (page 30– 41) to find out the supporting letters

Local Governments	Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations
The Government of BASQUE	ASLE, CONFEMCOOP
The Provincial Government of BIZKAIA	EHLABE, GIZATEA
Municipality of ARRASATE-MONDRAGÓN	REAS EUSKADI
EUDEL(Basque Municipalities Association)	Sareen Sarea

MAYOR OF SEOUL AND REPRESENTATIVES OF BILBAO CITY LEAVE THE GA

The GA was adjourned as few elected city officials leave the GA, Co-chairman, Mayor Park apologized to leave the GA in order to leave to the airport and propose to meet often not only at the forums but also through other arrangements. Group photos were taken prior to the mayors of Seoul and representatives of Bilbao city and Mondragon Mayor's departure.

After Mayor Park, Bilbao and Mondragon left the GA, Co-chairman Rev. Song presided the GA. After a short break, the SG presented five new membership applications which were submitted during the GSEF2016 (7th – 9th Sep) forum. The SG proposed to the GA either the SC approves the new membership applications at the next SC meeting based on the fact that charter amendments are going to be made with regard to the approval process (from review by the SC and approval of the GA to review by the Secretariat and approval of the SC) or the GA accepts the new applications through the GSEF2016 GA based on the current Charter.

No.	Applicants
1	La Cuada Provoca Ciudad AC : Mexico
2	Réseau d'Education Civique au Congo (RECIC) : DRC
3	Institut des nations, INDC : Tunisia / Morocco
4	La Maison du Millénaire : Quebec
5	Patricio Bravo Red de Economia Sociesria: Ecuador

- * 1. Announcement of Mexico City Council's membership application at the GA should be corrected to honorary membership application of SSE civil society network: La Cuada Provoca Ciudad AC (Mexico)
- 2. Although it was not explicitly announced at the GA, La Maison du Millénaire applied for associate membership

RIPESS (Yvon Poirer) suggested that the SC should accept the new membership applications as the SC has the power to approve by law. However, philSEN (Lurina Gargarita) pointed out that the GA can approve new memberships as the proposed Charter amendments have not been officially endorsed yet. Locality (Karin Woodley) has supported the idea of philSEN by suggesting the GA to simply accept membership applications to extend the GSEF network more easily rather than delaying the decision for the next SC meeting.

The SG asked the GA whether there is a member who is against and also asked the GA whether they

will need a secret vote, without any opposition or request for a secret vote, the GA unanimously accepted the new membership applications.

Membership applications after the Charter amendments (article 4.1, agenda 7 which was discussed during the GSEF2015 SC) will be reviewed by the Secretariat and approved by the Steering Committee from 2017.

AGENDA 7. AMENDMENT OF THE GSEF CHARTER

The Chairperson asked the SG to explain the agenda item 7 in more details, and the SG suggested two Charter amendments to be made to the GA.

1. Simplifying new member registration process from the review of the SC and approval of General Assembly to the review of the Secretariat and approval of the SC (article 4.1)

Before	After
4.1. Registration: Member registration <u>is reviewed by the GSEF Steering Committee and decided by the General Assembly of the GSEF</u> and the concrete registration procedure is decided by a separate clause.	4.1 Registration: Member registration <u>is reviewed by the GSEF Secretariat and approved by the Steering Committee of the GSEF</u> and the concrete registration procedure is decided by a separate clause.

The SG highlighted that under the current charter (article 4.1) new membership application submission after the GSEF2016 should wait for two years as the GSEF GA held biannually; the amendment will allow quicker approval for the new members as the SC has to be held at least once a year according to the Charter. The SG explained that the SC examined the situation and proposed the GA to make amendments that the new GSEF membership applications after the GSEF2016 shall be reviewed by the Secretariat and approved by the SC.

2. State explicitly chair city finances management of secretariat and personnel expenses (Article 8.4)

Before	After
8.4 The GSEF should be responsible for all budgetary management of its Secretariat. The city hosting the GSEF Secretariat can provide extra staffs <u>and budget to the Secretariat to support its management.</u>	8.4 The GSEF should be responsible for all budgetary management of its Secretariat. The city hosting the GSEF Secretariat can provide extra staffs <u>and bears the expenses of management, including personnel expenses of Secretary General and staffs within the authority and budget of hosting city.</u>

The SG explained that the new article more explicitly states the financial responsibility of the hosting city in hiring staffs, operations of the Secretariat. The SG highlighted that this change is to explicitly state the responsibility of chair city to support the financial management of the secretariat and informed the GA that the amendments were examined through the three SC meetings. After the

explanation, the SG checked whether all members are agreeing on the proposed charter amendments and whether there is any opposition or abstention. The representative of Seoul Metropolitan Government (Seon-Seop Kang) made a request to modify the proposed amendments by adding 'within the authority and budget of hosting city' at the end of the clause.

Regarding the new proposal presented, the Chairperson gave extra explanations to the GA that executing budgets require the approval of City Council and there is nothing changed about the intention of the City of Seoul but this is more about the process.

City of Montreal (Johanne Lavoie) acknowledged that there is a certain procedure for the execution of the budget and expressed their agreement on the new amendments. The Chairperson asked members to encourage the City of Seoul with applause. And the GA approved suggested Charter amendments with extra clause added.

** Refer to the Annex M.(page 60-66) to read the current Charter of GSEF in full length*

AGENDA 8. DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON THE MEMBERSHIP FEE PAYMENT

The Chairperson mentioned that for some local governments the membership fee has been burdensome. And the GSEF Secretariat prepared a document to advise the GA to adjust and review the membership fee table and asked the SG to explain in more details about the agenda item No.8 Considering the actual situation, the SG highlighted that the current fee table for the local governments has been adjusted to encourage cities' GSEF membership by reducing their financial burden (small and medium size population with high GDP per capita in particular). The SG informed the GA that the City of Mondragon, City of Bologna expressed their concerns over the current fee table which is not in favor of small & medium size cities.

The SG explained to the GA that there are some local governments who have a difficulty in convincing municipal councils, including Mondragon; the mayor is very much in favor of SSE but the city council is composed of different political parties and they may against to pay the membership fee for political reasons. The Chairperson also pointed out that in some cities joining the association is not solely based on budgetary considerations but they need an approval from their respective city councils and urged the GSEF members to push their city councils to make the right decisions.

The SG also explained the context in which GSEF membership fee payment is adjourned by the end of 2016 and suggested the GA to approve normalization of the membership fee payment from the year 2017 onwards. philSEN (Lurina Gargarita) suggested that for new members who have a difficulty in meeting the financial contribution to the association will have a grace period and its applicability and duration of the period shall be reviewed by the SC. After the discussions, the GA unanimously approved that the membership fee table for local governments to be adjusted in favor of small and medium size cities with high GDP, also to normalize the membership fee payment from the year 2017. The approval was proposed by the City of Montreal then seconded by Chantier.

BCCF pointed out that BCCF is wrongly classified as local government as the BCCF is a voluntary organization and asked whether there is any change in the membership fee categories for the SSE networks. The SG replied to the BCCF that the Secretariat will check again the classification of the BCCF. The current fee table for the SSE networks (ranging from 50\$ to 250\$ at the most) is considered as a reasonable contribution thereby there is no change proposed by the GA

** Refer to the Annex D.(13-16) to check out the details of the membership fee table changes*

AGENDA 9 DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON ACHIEVING LEGAL ENTITY OF THE GSEF SECRETARIAT

The Chairperson stressed that registering as NPO / IOs both have pros and cons. For example, NPO status may pose a difficulty in getting the grants from the City of Seoul, while attaining IO status will require an approval of the National Assembly of Korea which can be complicated as the fund shall be raised by different member countries. Whereas NPO or Int'l NPO status has a benefit of receiving funds from external, private sources. The Chairperson suggested the GA to discuss further on both sides of the proposals and reminded the GA that it is not a choice of selecting either option.

The SG added to the overview of the Chairperson that the GSEF as a young organization, it does not have a legal entity and GSEF is in the process of institution building. With a recommendation of Secretariat, the SG proposed to the GA to attain GSEF's legal entity as a Korean NPO first for practical reasons, then explore options of registering GSEF as IO or possibility of registering GSEF in other countries which require less conditionality. The SG asked the GA whether there is anyone who is against including abstention and as there was no sign of disagreement, the GA unanimously approved the GSEF to attain its legal status as Korean based NPO for practical reasons of Secretariat with applause.

** Refer to the Annex E.(14-16) to find out details about pros and cons of proposed legal status*

AGENDA 10. APPROVAL OF THE ACTIVITY AND FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2014 – 2016

The Chairperson informed the GA that the Secretariat sent the information of financial activity through email to members, to review prior to the GA, and asked the SG to explain the agenda item No. 10 in brief as the time is running out.

The SG explains that after the first GA in 2014, Secretariat had been under the City of Seoul's management, but in 2015, it became an independent association. Ever since, for one year the Secretariat prioritized information exchange between members and prepare the organization of GSEF2016 forum in collaboration with the City of Montreal and Chantier. The SG highlighted that GSEF has been increasing its visibility through international activities and networking through building relationship with the leading international SSE networks such as RIPESS and MBM as well as with UN agencies notably UNRISD.

Regarding the financial report, the SG pointed out that the proposed budget for 2017-2018 is not yet granted as the decision will be made by the end of 2016, by the Mayor, SMG and the City Council – due to its participatory governance structure in deciding execution of the budget. After the briefing on the GSEF activities and financial reports for the period of 2014-2016, the GA unanimously approved the Agenda item No.10.

** For activity report, refer to Annex F. (page 17 -21)
For financial report, refer to Annex G. (page 22)*

AGENDA 11. ADOPTION OF THE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2016-2018

The Chairperson asked the SG to explain in more details about the GSEF plans for the period of 2016-2018. The SG explained to the GA that programs and activities budget for 2016-2018 were already discussed through the last two SC meetings. And the budgetary part had been discussed earlier during the discussion on agenda item No.10. The SG summarized the two main priorities of GSEF programs.

1. Building a strong relationship between local governments and SSE actors in different continents
2. Developing training and educational program for the decision makers of local governments and SSE actors for the co-construction of public policy.

When it comes to international lobby and advocacy efforts, GSEF has engaged with UCLG, Habitat III and Metropolis. GSEF proposed to conduct a joint research project with UNRISD on the best practices of city and local government's public policy to promote SSE. MBM also proposed to work together to publish international guiding principle for the legislation on the SSE with GSEF.

The SG highlighted that expanding GSEF membership and reinforcing the capacity of GSEF as a global SSE network will be the priority of the association for the coming years. BCCF suggested to consider programs such as 'GSEF award and competition' to the outstanding SSE actors (for the cities outside of GSEF). The Chairperson suggested BCCF and other members of the GA to contact the Secretariat for any suggestion for the GSEF programs, then asked the GA to approve the agenda item No. 11. The GA unanimously adopted the agenda with applause.

** For proposed program of activities, refer to the Annex H (page.23-28)
For proposed budget of GSEF, refer to the Annex I. (page. 29)*

AGENDA 12. REPORT ON CITIES AND DISCUSSION ON THE ARTICULATION AND SHARING ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN GSEF AND CITIES

The Chairperson introduced C.I.T.I.E.S by referring Prof. Margie Mendell (Karl Polanyi Institute for Political Economy) 'GSEF gave a birth to the new born baby' then asked Nancy Neamtan (Chantier) to further present C.I.T.I.E.S in more details. Nancy gave a presentation on C.I.T.I.E.S that will serve as a light organization by mutualizing all the SSE knowledge and practices around the world and will bring the information where it is needed. Importantly, it will assist GSEF to achieve its missions and will be launched to promote international SSE knowledge transfer.

Nancy also informed the GA that currently Barcelona, Pueblo and Paris confirmed their participation in the initiative. Nancy pointed out that the project is very important for the question of youth projects as C.I.T.I.E.S will be engaging with youth by the participation of universities and research institutes to get youth travelling between different places based on agreements and it is the future of its movement. She also mentioned that it is the work where C.I.T.I.E.S can collaborate together with GSEF.

The Chairperson responded to the comment by mentioning his meeting with Mayor Won-Soon Park; the Mayor said "it is very meaningful that new organization such as C.I.T.I.E.S is being established through the GSEF and other cities / countries should go on to new projects by using the GSEF and hope

the GSEF to be a tool for this movement and certainly C.I.T.I.E.S has shown the best example in this regard". The Chairperson suggested the GA to congratulate the launch of C.I.T.I.E.S with applause.

** Refer to Annex K (page 42 – 48) to find out details about the C.I.T.I.E.S project*

AGENDA 13. REQUEST TO BECOME A MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

The Chairperson informed the GA that leading international networks on the SSE are requesting the GSEF to join their networks. The SG briefly introduced the MBM which is active for more than a decade, and the International Leading Group on the SSE which is the group of national governments. Also introduced the RIPESS which is active in 60 different countries for the promotion of SSE.

The SG mentioned that the requests have been studied by the SC and the SG proposed the GA that the GSEF to join RIPESS as a member, the Mont-Blanc Meetings (MBM) as a board member and observer of International Leading Group of SSE.

The SG invited the MBM (Thierry Jeantet) to introduce the MBM governance structure and the International Leading Group on the SSE to the GA. Thierry firstly drew the difference between the MBM and the International Leading Group on the SSE where MBM is the association of social enterprises but the International Leading Group on the SSE is a pilot group of national governments in advocating public policy in favor of the SSE, for which MBM is assuming a joint secretariat with the French Government

RIPESS (Yvon Poirer) was also asked to give a brief presentation to the GA – Yvon explained that RIPESS as an intercontinental network operates in each continents and two members from each continent compose the board. Each continent has independent structure and organizes events independently.

After the briefing, with a recommendation of SC, the SG proposed the GA that GSEF to become the 3rd category of International Leading Group (civil society organizations) as an observer and become a board member of MBM as the very first international network to join the MBM and a member of RIPESS (civil society organization), under the category of the international organization of SSE. The GA approved the proposal unanimously.

** Refer to the Annex L (49-59) to find out more details about RIPESS and MBM*

AGENDA 14. OTHER BUSINESS.

Co-Chairman Rev. Song and the SG asked the GA whether there is any agenda item to add, Jean Martin Aussant, the new director of Chartier on behalf of Chantier, thanked the GSEF and mentioned his expectation to collaborate as closely as possible. Monique Valee from the City of Montreal also expressed their gratitude to the Korean team and wished the team to come back to Montreal shortly again. Professor Margie Mendell from Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy informed the GA that KPIA (Karl Polanyi Institute Asia) is another baby of GSEF and the next Karl Polanyi international conference will be held in Seoul in October 2017. Co-Chairman Rev Song gave special thanks to the GSEF2016 organizing committee for what they have achieved and done for the



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successful hosting of GSEF2016.

Everyone stands up and gave a big applause to the organizing committee of GSEF2016. The Co-chairperson Rev.Song announced the closure of the GA2016, and the GA responded with applause.