Minutes of a meeting of the Basic Income Earth Network General Assembly held at the BIEN Congress in Tampere, Finland on Sunday 26th August 2018 at 15:45

Present: 48 members and several observers

1. Opening of GA and welcome: The Vice Chair, Karl Widerquist, opened the meeting, and welcomed members and other attendees. He explained that after the business of the meeting had been concluded there would be a recess while ballots were counted for the posts of Chair, Vice Chair, and Deputy Treasurer.
2. Roll call and confirmation of membership: The Vice chair confirmed that members' names had been checked and that ballot papers had been given to members.
3. Approval of the rule-keeper: Michael Howard was appointed.
4. Approval of the agenda: The agenda was approved.
5. Approval of the minutes of the 2017 GA: The minutes were approved after 'per annum' had been deleted from the minute about BIENfactors.
6. Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda: There were none.
7. Treasurer's report: Requests were made to circulate with the minutes a) the number of annual members, and b) details of trustees' expenses; and a question was asked about investment of the Permanent Fund, which the General Manager will discuss with the Treasurer. The report was received nem con.
8. Appointment of auditor: Tony Garrood ACA was appointed auditor, nem con
9. Elections to the Executive Committee:

   A motion that the Chair should read the names of individuals standing unopposed was passed nem con. The following names and posts was read, and the new postholders were applauded:

Julio	Aguirre	Secretary
Mark	Wadsworth	Treasurer
André	Coelho	BI News Editor
Tyler	Prochazka	BI Features Editor
Leah	Hamilton	BI News and Volunteer Recruitment Officer
Kate	McFarland	Research Manager
Toru	Yamamori	Research Manager
Jasper	van den Bor	Affiliate Outreach
Julio	Linares	Public Outreach
Demétrio	Ruivo	Website manager
Aoife	Hegarty	Fundraiser
Anne	Miller	Bank Account Trustee
Jay	Ginn	Bank Account Trustee
Jake	Eliot	Bank Account Trustee

   The following posts were contested. Candidates were introduced, and ballot papers were collected:

Anja	Askeland	Chair
Louise	Haagh	Chair
Sarath	Davala	Vice chair
Rubén	Lo Vuolo	Vice chair
Jamie	Cooke	Assistant treasurer
Lena	Stark	Assistant treasurer

10. Report from the Chair and Vice Chair: The report was received.
11. Other reports: Both the BI News and Outreach reports were received. Questions were asked about editorial policy and BIEN's relationship to campaigning. It was explained that the editorial policy for both news and opinion articles on the website is to ensure compatibility with BIEN's educational objectives, that articles should not be advertisements for commercial activity, and that the journalism should be of a high standard. It was also explained that BIEN has a long tradition of respect for

neutrality among competing models of Basic Income scheme, and that the educational remit of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation is consistent with that tradition. While BIEN's objectives and activities have always been educational, members and affiliated organisations have often been campaigning in orientation; and BIEN's outreach activity has been to affiliated organisations involved in campaigning as well as to civil society organisations of many kinds. It was emphasised that individuals are of course free to speak and act as they wish as long as they make it clear that they are not speaking in the name of BIEN. The Executive Committee's decision to work with the International Basic Income Week, but not to be responsible for it, is consistent with this position. The new Charitable Incorporated Organisation constitution does not stop BIEN from doing anything that it has previously done.

Jenna van Draanen was thanked for her work on outreach.

12. Decision to wind up the Belgian registration of BIEN (the AISBL): BIEN having been registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in the UK, a non-profit organisation with the same objectives as the AISBL, and all of the assets having been transferred to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the meeting passed nem con the following resolution: That the International Non-profit-making association Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) registered in Belgium should be wound up.
13. Decision on internal rules for BIEN: The draft internal rules were agreed nem con without amendment.
14. Election of chair of international board: The international board having been established by the internal rules, Philippe Van Parijs, being the only candidate, was elected as its chair.
15. Founders award: The resolution, 'that on the recommendation of BIEN's Executive Committee, the General Assembly welcomes and takes note of the initiative described in the paper', was discussed and then tabled for further consideration by the proposers and the Executive Committee. (The motion for tabling was proposed by Troy Henderson and seconded by Jim Mulvale, and was passed with one vote against and two abstentions).
16. Proposals for affiliation received: The meeting agreed nem con to affiliate organisations in Russia and Indonesia.
17. Venue for the 2020 BIEN Congress: A single application had been received, from Australia. The meeting agreed nem con that the 2020 Congress would be held in Australia.
18. Any other business: Suggestions were made that funding should be provided to enable individuals involved in the Basic Income debate in low income countries to attend future congresses; that online participation in congresses should be possible; and that future congresses should be a day longer. It was agreed that the Executive Committee would study these suggestions.
19. Announcement of results of the elections to the Executive Committee: Following a recess for the counting of the ballots, the rulekeeper announced the results as follows:

    Chair: Anja Askeland, 22 votes; Louise Haagh, 38 votes. Louise Haagh was declared Chair of BIEN.

    Vice Chair: Sarath Davala, 37 votes; Ruben Lo Vuolo, 26 votes. Sarath Davala was declared Vice Chair of BIEN.

    Assistant Treasurer: Jamie Cooke, 38 votes; Lena Stark, 22 votes. Jamie Cooke was declared Assistant Treasurer.

20. Close of meeting. The meeting was declared closed at 19.00.