Personal statement from Hilde Latour, candidate for Vice Chair

Dear friends!

My name is Hilde Latour, I am from The Netherlands and standing for the position of Vice-Chair of BIEN. I have a background in biomedical sciences and cultural anthropology and years of experience in program- and knowledge-management. Self-Organised Learning and Innovation feels natural to me, which is why I enjoy exploring this with middle school children in India.

Within the Basic Income space, you may know me from

- Basisinkomen Nederland – board member international relations Dutch BIEN - https://basisinkomen.nl/
- Mission Possible 2030 – Basic Income the key to SDG - co-founder - https://missionpossible2030.com/
- TEDx: Building Commons on the blockchain, a new narrative for Basic Income - https://youtu.be/Lu-Yic59bil

If elected, I would work for:

1. **A financially healthy educational charity**
   BIEN has spent more than received for several years in a row now, with extremely low costs. We simply need more resources to keep track with the present. The Basic Income debate is intensifying on many levels and the number of pilots and programs is rapidly growing. The worldwide lockdown policies in response to the COVID-19 virus has accelerated this process in an unprecedented way.

2. **Education, information, advice and advocacy, the entire basket**
   ‘Basic Income’ is used for many things that are not Basic Income. As a worldwide operating network with almost 40 affiliates, BIEN needs to inform and educate the people and policymakers about what is, and what is not Basic Income. Only with a truly unconditional Basic Income we can guarantee that no one is left behind. Support for Basic Income is growing; even the United Nations are now openly advocating for Basic Income in relation to human rights. The time is ripe to move from pilots to public policy. As BIEN we can position ourselves as a network of international advisors who can offer context-specific support to policy makers who are willing to move towards the implementation of Basic Income on a national level.
3. **Forward together, no turning back**
Basic Income groups, researchers and advocates from all over the world have never been so united since the worldwide lockdown. Let’s keep that momentum going. Within our network, we have a huge amount of first-hand knowledge to combine. Although a truly lifelong guaranteed Basic Income has not yet been implemented, we have learned from experimental outcomes in rural areas; experiences with complementary currencies; strategies to influence politicians from left to right; long-term dividend schemes; effects on gender inequality and long-term unemployed. The list goes on and on and on. It is time to combine, design and implement.

4. **Knowledge transfer to the next generation**
The first generation of BIEN heroes and heroines have an extraordinary amount of knowledge and experience. If we can find a way to strengthen the ties with the new generation of talents, the new generation can be positioned much better and accelerate.