

Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN)

Internal rules, following amendment at the General Assembly held in Hyderabad in 2019 and at the general meeting of members held on the 17th December 2020

(The internal rules are listed under the section numbers in the Charitable Incorporated Organisation constitution)

(The terms ‘trustee’ and ‘Executive Committee member’ are to be taken as interchangeable.)

(The terms ‘Annual General Meeting’ and ‘General Assembly’ are to be taken as interchangeable.)

These rules

Nothing in these rules shall contradict the provisions of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation’s constitution.

A resolution to amend these rules must be agreed by the trustees and by a simple majority of members of BIEN at a general meeting in accordance with Article 10 (2) of the Constitution for the amendment to take effect.

9. Membership of the CIO

b) Admission procedure

Applicants for membership of BIEN, whether for annual membership or for life membership, will be required to complete the membership application form that appears on the organisation’s website.

All existing life members of BIEN who have paid a one-off membership fee are members of the CIO automatically and for life. Members who become members by paying an annual membership fee remain members for as long as the annual fee is paid.

The trustees’ agreement to new membership shall be assumed, and new memberships will take effect 22 days after the application has been made, unless the prospective member is informed within 21 days of applying for membership that their application has not been agreed by the trustees.

The trustees will not agree to any new memberships either at a General Assembly or within a week of a General Assembly.

Only individuals will be admitted to membership of BIEN.

11. General meetings of members

3) Notice of general meetings

Prior notice of the date of the AGM, along with a draft agenda, shall be given by email at least 120 days before the meeting.

Prior notice of vacancies on the Executive Committee, and of the posts to which they are attached, shall be sent to members at least 60 days before the AGM.

The agenda, along with proposals for changes in the constitution or in internal rules, and ballot papers for Executive Committee elections, shall be sent at least 30 days in advance of the meeting

11. General meetings of members

4) Chairing of meetings

Unless otherwise stated on the agenda: in the interest of the time, no item on the GA agenda shall be discussed for more than 30 minutes. When a single item has been discussed for 25 minutes, the rule keeper will interrupt the chair of the meeting to warn them that time is getting short. At that time the chair shall call for the GA to bring the discussion to a close or make an affirmative decision to extend it for another limited amount of time or do something else to deal with the time limitations. If no affirmative decision of what to do next is made, the item automatically comes to a close, and the chair shall move on to the next item. The GA can make any decision it wants about whether and how to deal with the time pressure, some possibilities include (1) vote to make a final decision on the issue, (2) vote to appoint a group to lead a discussion on the issue between then and the next GA, or (3) vote to continue discussion of the issue during the current meeting for another limited amount of time (but the GA should be careful not to extend discussion too long because the beliefs of the people who have less time available are as important as the people who have more time available).

6) Voting at general meetings

Resolutions shall be decided by votes taken at the meeting, and not by electronic or postal votes. Votes shall be by show of hands unless at least two members ask that the vote shall be by secret ballot, in which case the resolution shall be decided by secret ballot. (See the rule below relating to proxy voting)

If the General Assembly is held online rather than as a physical meeting then resolutions can be voted on electronically.

7) Proxy voting

No member shall act as a proxy for more than one other member.

12. Charity trustees

3) Number of charity trustees

There shall be no more than twenty trustees.

13. Appointment of charity trustees

Trustees shall be elected to specific functions as agreed by the trustees and publicised at the same time as the vacancies.

No individual can hold more than one post on the Executive Committee, and for the purposes of this rule the Congress Local Organising Committee representative counts as a post.

Trustees shall be elected by both a postal or electronic ballot and a secret ballot at the AGM, with the votes cast in both forms of ballot being added together to decide the outcome of the election.

Individuals wishing to be elected as trustees must have been members of BIEN for at least a year and must send an application in a manner and form decided by the trustees at least 40 days prior to the GA.

Postal ballot papers and/or instructions for electronic ballots shall be distributed at least 30 days before the AGM. Any individual who becomes a member after ballot papers and instructions for electronic ballots have been distributed will be able to vote in person at the AGM, but will not be sent a postal ballot paper or instructions for electronic ballots.

Trustees appointed by the trustees under subclause 5 shall only remain trustees after the following Annual General Meeting (General Assembly) if elected as a trustee at that meeting.

18. Delegation by trustees

The trustees shall establish an International Board as an advisory board without delegated powers. The International Board shall consist of all present and former trustees and BIEN EC committee members still active in BIEN. The Board's chair shall be elected by the AGM for a renewable period of two years. The Board shall meet in exceptional circumstances either at the request of the Trustees or at the initiative of its Chair.

If the Chair of the International Advisory Board (IAB) calls a meeting of the IAB then the Chair will administer and convene the meeting; but if the Executive Committee (EC) calls a meeting then the EC will be responsible for convening and administration.

As permitted by section 33 of the General Regulations relating to Charitable Incorporated Organisations, the trustees may delegate functions to a General Manager by agreeing to such delegation at a trustees' meeting and entering the details of the delegation in the minutes of the meeting. The General Manager might or might not be a trustee, and, if not a trustee, might or might not be paid by the organisation.

Additional rules

Affiliated organisations

An organisations that shares BIEN's purpose may apply to be termed an 'affiliated organisation.' If both the trustees and the membership at a General Meeting agree that the applicant shall be termed an 'affiliated organisation', then that organisation's name shall be entered in a list on BIEN's website.

The trustees may determine that an organisation shall no longer be termed an 'affiliated organisation'.

An expectation

A 'house rule', or expectation, and not a rule: No trustee shall stand for more than two terms.