

Minutes of a meeting of the Basic Income Earth Network General Assembly, being the Annual General Meeting of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation called the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), held online on Wednesday 28 September 2022 at 13:00 British Summer Time (UTC+1)

Present: 55 members attended. Attendance varied only slightly during the meeting.

1. Opening of GA and welcome: The Chair, Dr. Sarath Davala, welcomed members, and congratulated the Brisbane Local Organising Committee on the three day hybrid congress that had preceded this meeting.

2. Roll call and confirmation of membership: The chair asked the Secretary whether the memberships of those attending the meeting had been checked. The Secretary assured the meeting that the registration process had ensured that only members were able to be present and to vote. One person who had not registered was asked whether they did and upon no response was asked to leave the meeting.

3. Approval of the agenda: The agenda was approved nem con (without dissent).

4. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 GA: The minutes were approved nem con.

5. Matters arising from the minutes and not appearing elsewhere on the agenda: There were none.

6. Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report, the 2021 audited accounts, and the half year accounts for 2022, were noted. The Treasurer highlighted the need to raise 30,000 pounds in order to receive the Mustardseed grant in full, which was made conditional on BIEN raising its own funding. An exchange took place on how to raise funds for that purpose, including a forthcoming plea by the Chair to BIEN's affiliates and members for donations. Guy Standing announced a donation of 100 pounds to encourage BIEN members to donate. This was backed by Neil Howard. Alexander de Roo also pledged 1000 pounds by the Basic Income network in the Netherlands.

7. Reappointment of auditor: Tony Garrood ACA was appointed auditor nem con.

8. Elections to the Executive Committee: Three candidates stood for the posts they have held as interim. These include James Grant as Social Media Officer, Peter Knight as News Editor, Neil Howard as Hubs Supervisor. Pierre Madden ran uncontested for the Volunteer Coordinator post after Leah Hamilton's term came to an end. Each candidate presented themselves briefly. All four candidates were voted in unanimously.

9. Report from the Chair and Vice Chair: The Chair and Vice Chair presented their report with the highlights of the EC's work over the past year. These include updates on partnerships (UNDP, forthcoming project in Nepal, FRIBIS, BIRAL, DappCon) and work of the newly established Hubs. The newly appointed Hubs Coordinator briefed about his first months on the job. With regards to BIEN's MoU with UNDP and the advantage of UNDP having significant access in some countries of the Global South, members noted how such support is expected to be highly country-specific. The Chairs noted that following a successful meeting with BIEN's founders, a similar online event will be organised with BIEN's affiliates. In reaction to the Chair referring to BIEN as an inclusive 'broad church', a discussion ensued about broadening BIEN's reach to political movement. It was noted that

BIEN cannot take on a political positioning but is mandated to educate any one entity about basic income. There is an appeal of basic income to political parties that should be heeded. The report was received nem con.

10. Other EC reports: Other members of the EC shared some specifics in response to questions by the membership. Toru Yamamori shared that a thematic research group will be developed outside of but in collaboration with BIEN. Neil Howard provided an update on the planned project of a network of piloting practitioners bringing together an online community sharing design features, best practices etc. In relation to building such a network, there was an appeal to invite people involved in US experiments, including Givedirectly for more collegiality on such matters, a need for which had been observed by Neil and colleagues. Reports from the Hubs Supervisor, Social Media Officer, Volunteer Coordinator, Secretary, News Editor, Website Manager, Academic Research Editor, Opinion Editor, Social Outreach were considered and received nem con.

11. Report from the Clarification of the Basic Income Definition working group established at the 2019 General Assembly: Toru Yamamori spoke about the group's discussions and invited members to attend the group's regular meetings, which are an open forum. The written report on the group's work by Toru Yamamori was received nem con.

12. Affiliation Request: The three organisations gave brief presentations on their work. With regards to Mission Possible 2030's affiliation request, a question was raised as to whether there has been a precedent of a BIEN affiliate not representing a geographical area or country. In response, it was noted that two current BIEN affiliates, UBI-Europe and World Basic Income could qualify as such. Additionally, the current affiliates requirements do not list such a condition. Affiliation of the Chilean and Bangladesh networks were agreed nem com; affiliation of Mission Possible 2030 was voted 92% in favour, and 8% against.

13. Venue of the 2024 congress: The GA approved of the EC to choose the congress venue for 2024 as no submissions had been received prior to this meeting. The 2023 Congress will be held in South Korea between 23-26 August. Suggestion was made that the Africa Hubs coordinator may identify possible venues for 2024. The UK could also be an option, as is Barcelona given the ongoing pilot with support by the Catalanian Presidency. Question was raised about the US being a natural candidate given the many ongoing activities, it was confirmed that 2025 could be an option.

14. Any other business: The Chair recalled the appeal for fundraising and invited more engagement with BIEN members. A suggestion to hold a regular "BIEN Cafe" bringing together BIEN's EC and its membership was welcomed by all. The Chair expressed gratitude to previous EC members for their work including Barb Jacobson, Leah Hamilton, Malcolm Torry in his position as General Manager, Julio Aguirre and Aoifa Hegarty. Special thanks was addressed to the Brisbane Congress LOC and some feedback was shared by members in relation to the chosen virtual platform including preference for more direct engagement with participants, such as visibility of their number, their faces, ability to intervene verbally and for everyone to see the questions raised. Members looked forward to accessing the recorded sessions. No additional business had been notified to the Chair before the meeting. The EC was thanked for organising the GA.

15. The chair closed the meeting at 15:58.