

Personal statement for candidacy of BIEN Chair

Sarath Davala

My name is Sarath Davala and I am a sociologist from India. I have served on the Executive Committee of BIEN for two terms: once as Vice Chair and once as Chair. I would like to stand for one more term.

Team BIEN is now bursting with energy. We are now a dynamic and strong group of 12 working with deep respect and affection for one another.

In my last term, as a team, we have taken several initiatives to equip BIEN to respond to the ever-increasing expectations and demands from the growing interest in basic income all over the world. From a purely volunteer-led organisation we have now three paid staff in different parts of the world. The fourth is going to join soon. We have established Regional Hubs in the three continents – Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America. In collaboration with the UNDP, we have now gained access to most countries in the Global South. Through the Regional Hubs we plan to initiate conversations on Basic Income in as many countries as we can. To support the activities of the Hubs, we have raised nearly 200,000 USD, and we plan to raise more support for other initiatives. We plan to bring in new and dynamic people, particularly women, to the Executive Committee. These and several other initiatives have taken off, and I feel a continuity of leadership and team spirit is essential at this critical juncture.

It is with this in mind that I plan to stand for the position of Chair this year in the General Assembly of 2023 to be held in South Korea during this year's BIEN Congress. I appeal for support and encouragement from all BIEN

members this year, just as I have received it in the past.