

Minutes of the Basic Income Earth Network General Assembly (GA), being the Annual General Meeting of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation called the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), held online on Saturday, 26 August 2023 at 13:00 British Summer Time (UTC+1)

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

2. 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. The Chair took note of apologies by Malcom Torry, Treasurer and James Grant, Social Media Coordinator. Present: 51 members attended. Attendance varied very slightly during 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 meeting took note of the report.

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

8. Elections to the Executive Committee: Three candidates stood for the post they currently hold: Sarath Davala was re-elected as Chair by a majority with one objection; Hilde Latour was re-elected unanimously as Deputy Chair. In a suggestion by Guy Standing, Hilde's post, "Vice Chair" was agreed by the members to be renamed "Deputy Chair". Tyler Prochazka was re-elected unanimously as Features Editor. Jurgen De Wispaleare, Olaf Michael Ostertag, and Anja Askeland ran uncontested respectively as Research Coordinator, Affiliates Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator. The latter three 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.

10. Overview of BIEN's renewal: Wolfgang Wopperer-Beholz, Hubs Coordinator presented the organisation's work over the past year. This included the internal strategic review, BIEN's geographical presence, its member base composition and affiliate organisations. Six strategic initiatives were presented, including the Regional Hubs expansion, a new visual design, UBI TV and Podcast, engagement with volunteers, a knowledge repository and the Piloters Network. Wolfgang highlighted the need to raise funds given the foreseeable growing expenditures. Guy Standing suggested to slightly amend the mission statement by removing the "connective tissue" language, and replacing it with "links". Reinhard Huss suggested addressing friendly organisations to increase BIEN's membership base. At members' request, a copy of Wolfgang's presentation will be emailed by the Secretary. It was noted that this document is confidential as it includes financial figures of BIEN.

11. Report from the Clarification of the Basic Income Definition working group established at the 2019 General Assembly: The written report on the group's work by Toru Yamamori was received nem

con. At a request by Annie Miller, the GA approved that the Group continue its work for two more years until 2025, with a report to be presented at the 2024 Congress.

12. Affiliation Request: Affiliation request from Basic Income Sri Lanka was agreed nem com.

13. Venue of the 2024 congress: the GA took note of the 2024 Congress set to take place on 29-30-31 August in Bath, UK. Wolfgang presented briefly the overall theme of the Congress, its poster and Congress title: "Reclaiming Radical Roots: Basic Income and Socio-Ecological Transformation". A unique feature of this congress will be a series of side events with adjacent topics linked to BI. The aim is to link basic income to the wider policy space and bring the topic closer to the political one. Members noted that congresses are usually held for four days including a day dedicated to local initiatives. A member wondered whether the dates fall on a bank holiday, which was clarified as the week earlier.

14. Venue of the 2025 congress: As in the 2022 GA, members approved to defer the decision on the 2025 Congress to the EC as no submissions had been received prior to this meeting. A discussion ensued on two possible venues, Brazil and the US. On a request by Dr. Eduardo Suplicy, a letter directed to Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, saying BIEN would like to organise the Congress in Brazil in 2025, was not endorsed by the GA. As an educational charity, BIEN is not the appropriate organisation for such an appeal to a Head of State. The members however expressed their solidarity with BIEN Brazil affiliate and Dr. Suplicy in all their efforts in pushing the current Brazilian government for instituting a full basic income law, as promised in 2004. The Chair invited affiliates in both countries to submit proposals to the Executive Committee.

A proposal by a member suggested that in awarding the 2025 Congress, EC bear in mind criteria that i) the Congress targets maximum public domain engagement, ii) speakers' fees and expenses are minimised, iii) Congress accounts are reported to EC and available to all BIEN members, iv) Congress price includes small fee to BIEN

Any other business:

Taking note of the statement submitted to BIEN ahead of the GA, members approved the inclusion of the following: "Life members Hyosang Anh, Min Geum and Olaf Michael Ostertag made the motion that BIEN co-signs the declaration 'Basic Income as a necessary component of a socio-ecological transformation and key element for climate justice", as presented by the Korean and German networks on the 22nd BIEN congress. Since this text had not been distributed to the BIEN members before the GA, the GA agreed to put the EC on the task of deciding how to proceed in this regard." Guy Standing asked for the text to be circulated to membership and then have the Executive Committee decide on the motion.

The Chair drew members' attention to a note in the Treasurer's report on his term ending by the 2024 GA after which Dr. Malcolm Torry does not plan to stand again. A replacement needs to be identified and assume office right after being appointed as such a post cannot be left vacant. The Secretary invited members to consider actively who can be interested in presenting themselves, including among fellow members not present at the meeting. She highlighted that ideally, the incumbent would be a BIEN member, resident in the UK and with prior experience managing the finances of a charity. 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 15:45