

Personal Statement by Diana Bashur for the UN Liaison position

Dear BIEN members,

It's been a pleasure and honour serving as BIEN Secretary over the past 3 years. I would like to now concentrate my efforts on BIEN's engagement with the United Nations which I started during my time as Secretary.

I see this partnership as key in the advancement of basic income as an incredibly potent development tool. The UN agencies, funds, programmes are a central player in the field of development globally. A partnership with the UN is thus a natural expansion of our efforts for a more systematic consideration of basic income as a policy tool. Importantly, as an actor with significant clout with governments in the Global South, the UN can have significant input as to what policies may be considered.

Over the last 3 years, the UN-BIEN engagement consisted of the following:

- a panel at the BIEN Annual Congress of 2021 where UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, UNESCO, ECLAC, ESCWA, the World Bank and IMF spoke in favour of basic income and its potential for these agencies' respective mandates
- an Memorandum of Understanding between BIEN and UNDP signed in 2021
- Consultations in 2023 with the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General culminating in the recommendation of basic income as an emerging policy tool for conflict prevention in [The New Agenda for Peace](#). This is a key initiative presented to national governments for the review of their external aid policies and peacebuilding efforts. See also BIEN's [open letter](#) of August 2023 reflecting on this milestone.
- consultations with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office in 2024, including a submission by BIEN for the 2025 Peacebuilding Review presenting basic income as a complementary peacebuilding and development tool.

This engagement also builds on my phd research at the University of Vienna assessing basic income as a social cohesion tool in the Global South, including in post-conflict settings.

To continue this engagement, I would kindly seek your support in this election.

Thank you.

Diana Bashur