

Press Statement 2 to be Issued by BIEN during the Congress in Bath, UK

Subject: BIEN's submission to the 2025 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture

A Basic Income is a periodic cash payment unconditionally delivered to all on an individual basis, without means-test or work requirement.

On 8 August 2024, the Basic Income Earth Network submitted input for the United Nations Secretary-General's report on the 2025 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, upon invitation of the United Nations (UN) Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). This proposal was endorsed by over 125 affiliates and partner organisations from 46 countries who joined their organisational commitment behind BIEN's call for the consideration of basic income as a peacebuilding instrument.

BIEN's submission proposes seven action points that operationalize how a basic income can complement traditional development and peacebuilding efforts by the United Nations entities and other international organisations.

This engagement with PBSO builds on BIEN's work with various international organisations since 2021, including UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, UNESCO, ECLAC, ESCWA, the World Bank and IMF advocating for the consideration of basic income as a development and peacebuilding instrument. This resulted in basic income being among Antonio Guterres' recommendations for conflict prevention in the Secretary-General's landmark initiative, the New Agenda for Peace, launched in July 2023.

We strongly believe that this BIEN-UN consultative process is particularly timely ahead of the Summit of the Future taking place in September 2024 in New York. With the transformative impact basic income pilot projects have had in consistently uplifting communities from deprivation and restoring their livelihoods, this policy instrument speaks directly to the aims of this Summit. Deployed as a peacebuilding and development instrument, a basic income can: contribute to how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future; mend the eroded trust and demonstrate that international cooperation can effectively tackle current challenges; present tools on "how" to cooperate better to deliver on the set aspiration and goals; and accelerate efforts to meet our existing international commitments and take concrete steps to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

Through this submission to PBSO, BIEN invites UN agencies, funds and programmes to join its ongoing efforts in supporting populations currently in grave needs and to whom we owe our best blueprints for recovery. BIEN members will be presenting detailed proposals for an Emergency Basic Income in the Palestinian Occupied Territories and in Ukraine (Congress session scheduled on 29 August at 4:30 pm local time), two contexts at the forefront of effective multilateralism.

In line with the crucial commitments made by the Secretary-General in Our Common Agenda culminating in the upcoming Summit of the Future, we owe it to current generations living in deprivation and future ones at risk to do so, to do better. We owe it to the vulnerable and

future-deprived populations to provide them with a helping hand to lift themselves out of poverty. The flexibility of unconditional and individual cash gives people the freedom to do so. We know basic income works and the evidence is unanimous for us to consider this instrument more systematically in our peacebuilding and development efforts.

Let our commitments and actions reflect that we, as policy makers, still believe that a better future is possible for everyone.

BIEN's submission to PBSO can be accessed [here](#).

You can reach us at bien@basicincome.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Davala', with a stylized flourish at the end.

29 August 2024, Bath, UK

On behalf of BIEN's Executive Committee

BIEN Chair, Sarah Davala