

**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 Friday, 30 August 2024 at 13:00 British Summer Time (UTC+1)**

1. Opening of GA and welcome: The Chair, Sarath Davala, welcomed members, and congratulated the Local Organising Committee of the University of Bath on the 2024 congress, which has been taking place.

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. 53 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 2023 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: Lindsay Stirton was elected as Treasurer after shadowing the current Treasurer, Malcolm Torry whose term is ending. Malcolm shared a few departing words that we as a legal entity should be cautious to comply with the basic tenets of our constitution and the stipulations laid by the Charity Commission. Julio Linares was reelected as Affiliates and Public Outreach Coordinator. Fabienne Hansen was elected as Secretary, Lee Seng Kat as Volunteer Coordinator and Diana Bashur as a UN Liaison. All candidates were elected nem con with a few abstentions. The vote took place after the candidates introduced themselves briefly.

9. Report from the Chair and Vice Chair: Hilde Latour gave an overview of the Chair, Deputy Chair and Public Outreach Coordinator's activities and partnership expansion including attendance of the first Latin American regional Congress in Costa Rica, meeting with Guatemala's minister of Finance and local governments of two remote villages in the Rainforest of Guatemala. Wolfgang Wopperer, BIEN's Hubs Coordinator presented the highlights of BIEN's work including its geographical presence, expansion plans and key initiatives like UBIData and engagement with the UN. The Chairs and the Hubs Coordinator key message to membership was the need for sustainable funding streams to maintain BIEN's growth and called on members to donate and reach out to potential donor institutions in their networks.

10. Report from the Clarification of the Basic Income Definition working group established at the 2019 General Assembly: Annie Miller gave an overview of the group's progress and suggested that within the next year, some outcome material will be presented ahead of the GA for a vote on proposals for the BI definition.

11. Venue of the 2025 congress: Fabio Waltenberg and Leandro Ferreira spoke about preparations for the 2025 Congress taking place between Niterói and Maricá, Brazil and shared the LOC's enthusiasm. Congress theme will be **Basic Income and the Solidarity Economy** in view of the pilot in Maricá. Discussion will cover a mix of policy at the municipal and national level; LOC planning to have a BI for Kids component. Dates are set for 25-29 August 2025. Fabio and Leandro invited BIEN members to consider doing research on BI in Brazil and LOC is happy to organise.

12. Venue of the 2026 congress: Members discussed possible venues as BIEN has not received any official proposal. Poland, Slovenia, Portugal and the United States were discussed as options. Members who are nationals from these countries confirmed that they will raise the topic with local BI affiliates. All expressed flexibility for whichever country is best placed to take on 2026, the others able to apply for subsequent years. The GA approved deferring the decision on the location of the 2026 Congress to BIEN's Executive Committee with one opposition.

13. Any other business:

- Guy Standing suggested forwarding the UN PBSO proposal to the press and invited members with contacts at their respective foreign ministries to seek their support.
- Memorandum on BI and socio-ecological transformation was endorsed by 60% of present members (31% did not approve and 6% had no opinion) and was passed.
- Eduardo Suplicy suggested for BIEN to approach Pope Francis and appreciate the fact that he endorses the need for a universal basic income for the entire humankind, and request him to become a BIEN member. This suggestion was approved by 60% of members and passed.
- Review of BIEN's International Advisory Board status: The term of the IAB Chair ends in 2024 and this body was never convened. Its Chair, Philippe Van Parijs gave an overview of IAB's main purpose and said that he would agree to scrap this body by way of changing BIEN's internal rules if the body is deemed unuseful. The GA thus passed the following resolution: "The renewable two-year term of the chair of BIEN's International Advisory Board ends in 2024. The IAB is an organ that has never been convened. We suggest that its status will be reviewed by the EC and a proposal on how to proceed will be submitted ahead of the 2025 General Assembly. In the meantime, to remain inline with BIEN's internal rules, we suggest reelecting Philippe Van Parijs as Chair of IAB, until the EC proposal." This resolution was passed unanimously with 3 members having no opinion.
- Guy Standing suggested setting up an IAB specifically ahead of annual congresses to help mobilise funding.

14. The chair closed the meeting at 15:00.