

Report from the Clarification of the Basic Income Definition working group established at the 2019 General Assembly

2019 GA Remit

‘the Chair and Vice chair have asked that a working group should be set up, of which Toru Yamamori and Annie Miller will be leading members, and which other BIEN members will be able to join, to discuss draft wording of a new page or pages on the BIEN website to provide clarification on the definition of Basic Income, the wording to be amended and authorised by the Executive Committee before publication. The Executive Committee thanks Annie for her initiative to set up this working group.’

Background of the Remit: Recent history on discussion on the definition of Basic Income

2014: A proposal to change the description of basic income was submitted to GA in Montreal 2014, but because of time pressure the proposal was tabled.

2016: For GA in Seoul 2016, in addition to the above motion (proposed by 5 regional affiliates and 17 members), another motion was proposed by Louise Haagh. Both concerned the issue of adequacy. During this Congress, EC decided to have a workshop to discuss this important issue. The workshop was chaired by Toru Yamamori. After a long debate, both sides finally agreed on a compromise proposal which was proposed for the General Assembly by Yamamori and seconded by Gabriele Schmidt. The main part of the first motion (about including adequacy characteristics in the definition) was excluded from the definition and its clarification, but a note on adequacy was to be written and inserted after the definition on the same page on the BIEN website.

The amended motions (one for the definition and its clarification, and the other for a note on adequacy) were passed and the definition and its clarification and note appeared on the website from October 2016 for a while. (This note on adequacy – which was approved by GA - was removed sometimes afterwards.)

2017: At GA in Lisbon, Ali Mutlu Köylüoğlu raised his voice about adding further characteristics related to the definition.

2019: For GA in Hyderabad, Annie Miller submitted a motion, seconded by Köylüoğlu, that asks to clarify the definition. The chair and vice chair asked Annie to withdraw the motion and lead a working group to discuss the issue with Toru Yamamori. The above REMIT was passed by GA.

The meetings of the CBID group so far.

Following the REMIT, Ali Mutlu Köylüoğlu, Annie Miller, Toru Yamamori, and Telemaque Masson gathered online, and after many discussions, decided to put forward a proposal for an open forum for

discussing matters on clarification of the definition at Brisbane Congress 2020. Due to the subsequent cancelation of the conference, an open forum was postponed to Glasgow Congress 2021. Meanwhile, we have been meeting regularly, interviewed several BIEN members, and attempted to create a baseline for future exchange, alongside the procedure issue.

Topics discussed are:

- Uniformity and Basic Income
- Non-withdrawal character of Basic Income
- Relationship between Basic Income and Human Rights
- Relationship between Basic Income and Negative Income Tax
- Reflections and remaining issues from the 2016 definition working group

Open forum on the Basic Income definition

1) At the BIEN Congress 2021, Glasgow

We decide to have both presentation sessions and open forum sessions, in order to make the latter sufficiently open for discussions. There are several sessions and papers related to the definition issues. Also open forums for discussions will be held one as a concurrent session on 20th and another as a plenary on 21st.

2) A plan after the congress

Currently, we are planning to hold an open meeting at 8am GMT on Monday 11th October, to discuss members' concerns about the BIEN definition. We intend to hold these regularly (perhaps quarterly), at least until the 2022 BIEN congress