

Minutes of a meeting of the Basic Income Earth Network General Assembly, being the Annual General Meeting of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation called the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), held online on Sunday 21st August 2021 at 14:00 British Summer Time (UTC+1)

Present: 43 members attended. Attendance varied considerably during the meeting.

1. Opening of GA and welcome: The Chair, Dr. Sarath Davala, welcomed members, and congratulated the Glasgow Local Organising Committee on the four day online congress that had preceded this meeting.

2. Roll call and confirmation of membership: The chair asked the General Manager whether the memberships of those attending the meeting had been checked. The General Manager assured the meeting that the registration process had ensured that only members were able to be present and to vote. One member had sent the link to a member whose annual membership had lapsed. The meeting agreed that he could remain in the meeting on the basis of a promise to pay his membership fee after the meeting.

A complaint was made against the Executive Committee that it had required prior registration for the meeting. Explanations were offered that the registration process was the only way to ensure the democratic legitimacy of the meeting; and that this process was now normal for online meetings of this kind.

3. Approval of the agenda: The agenda was approved nem con (without dissent).

4. Approval of the minutes of the 2019 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 treasurer's report, the 2020 audited accounts, and the half year accounts for 2021, were received (27 votes for, 1 against).

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

8. Elections to the Executive Committee: Single candidates had stood for the following posts: 1. Secretary: Diana Bashur; 2. Outreach: Julio Linares; 3. Treasurer: Malcolm Torry; 4. Website manager: Mike Valentine. Candidates were asked to introduce themselves and to explain why they wished to be elected to the posts. For the post of bank account trustee there was one candidate: Mark Wadsworth. The Executive Committee had asked for confirmatory votes if there were single candidates. All of the candidates were approved nem con. There had been no candidate for the post of social media manager. The Chair stated that the Executive Committee would seek a volunteer with a view to them being elected to the post next year. A suggestion was made that a paid position should be established.

9. Report from the Chair and Vice Chair: Questions were asked and answered about the new internship programme, and a suggestion was made that translations of basic information about Basic Income should appear in a variety of languages, with the texts validated before posting on the website, but that for news, opinion and research posts an automatic translation add-on should be considered. The Chair and Executive Committee were thanked for their work during the year. The report was received nem con.

10. Other reports: Reports from the secretary, news editor, volunteer manager, outreach officer, and research editor, were considered. A suggestion was made that archives of monthly newsflashes and of General Assembly minutes should be available on the website. The reports were received nem con.

11. Report from the Clarification of the Basic Income Definition working group established at the 2019 General Assembly: Annie Miller spoke about the group's discussions, and announced that there would soon be an open forum. No conclusions had been reached. Philippe Van Parijs reported on the final plenary of the congress, which had also been on the definition of Basic Income. The Chair stated that the Executive Committee would be reviewing all of the discussions about the definition of Basic Income that had taken place at the congress, and would be deciding on any steps that needed to be taken. The written report on the group's work by Toru Yamamori was received nem con.

12. Affiliation Request: Evamaria Langer-Dombrady spoke about the request from the First Hungarian Unconditional Basic Income Association. A number of members spoke in support of the application. Affiliation was agreed nem com.

13. Venue of the 2023 congress: Hyosang Ahn spoke about the Basic Income Korea Network's application to host the 2023 congress. A number of members spoke in support of the application. The venue was agreed nem con.

The Australia congress in 2022 was discussed. This will be a hybrid event. The dates will be published as soon as they are known. Discussion took place as to whether future congresses should be hybrid or a mixture of hybrid and online events. A request for further congresses in North America and Latin America was made.

14. Any other business: No additional business had been notified to the Chair before the meeting. The congress organisers were again thanked for a superb event.

15. The chair closed the meeting at 15:50.