



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

2017

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The BGIPU Chairman, Nigel Evans MP, supporting IPU
International Day of Democracy September 15 2017.

ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP

Chair's Report



Mr Nigel Evans MP
Chair, BGIPU

Reflecting on a busy programme of activities either side of the 2017 General Election period in June, I am pleased to provide a detailed report on BGIPU activities for the year since our Annual General Meeting on 7 December last year. In leading our work, I have been appreciative of the support of members for my role as Chair, especially the vital contributions made by my fellow Executive Committee members who have guided, hosted and participated in our inter-parliamentary activities this year.

Drawing on our standing as the UK Parliament's representative in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), our most valued activities involve our bilateral exchanges in hosting parliamentarians in Westminster and visiting overseas colleagues in parliaments abroad. This gives the UK membership absolutely vital engagement with overseas counterparts at a time of great complexity and, at times, global tension, when mutual understanding and constructive international dialogue have arguably never been more important. Indeed, as the United Kingdom itself seeks to pursue new opportunities across the globe, our inter-parliamentary relationships remain vitally important in forging for our nation a secure and prosperous post-Brexit future.

In a year in which our programme was suspended for around four months due to the dissolution of parliament after the calling of the general election, BGIPU has still received a good number of delegations visiting the Palace of Westminster and elsewhere in the UK under our auspices, hosting six delegations from the parliaments of Iraq, Argentina, Poland, Philippines and Turkey and, in the near future, Cuba.

In terms of bilateral visits overseas, since this time last year we have sent seven UK parliamentary delegations for extensive visits to Kosovo, Germany, Hungary, Peru, Serbia, Mongolia and Madagascar

so far this year. With a range of other inward and outward delegations planned before the end of the 2017/18 financial year, BGIPU will very much exceed its stated target for a total of ten bilateral exchange visits for the programme year, which is particularly gratifying given the temporary suspension of activities around the election period. Detailed overview reports of all of these activities are published on BGIPU's website which supplements this Annual Report.

I also want to thank all BGIPU members who have joined our UK delegations to Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assemblies and other IPU thematic meetings during the course of the year. The IPU continues to be an essential mechanisms for inter-parliamentary engagement on international issues and its continuing relevance and contribution to global discourse has been effectively underscored by it reaching a record total of 178 member parliaments at its most recent Assembly in October, hosted so effectively by the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. These Assemblies give us important opportunities to engage bilaterally with about a dozen counterpart parliaments each Assembly while also enabling us to ensure broader appreciation and understanding of the wide variety of UK's views on international issues from all our diverse political perspectives across both Houses.

In my capacity as BGIPU Chair, I have also had the honour to lead UK delegations to the 136th and 137th IPU Assemblies in Dhaka, Bangladesh and St Petersburg, Russian Federation in April and October 2017 respectively. These Assemblies saw general debates on "Redressing inequalities: Delivering on dignity and well-being for all" and "Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue" in which I also highlighted the injustice and abuse faced by members of the LGBT community worldwide and praised the contribution made by European migrants to the UK's own diversity. While the relevance and quality of the general debates remains open to improvement, the intensity and extent of inter-parliamentary engagement during Assemblies helps to provide real context and substance to our exchanges.

Reflecting immediate international developments, a resolution was

adopted in Dhaka on “Urgent international action to save millions of people from famine and drought in parts of Africa and Yemen” which was co-sponsored by the UK delegation (with Belgium and Kenya). In St Petersburg, the Assembly adopted a strong resolution on “Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar” in which UK delegates also played a vocal role.

Standing committee outcomes of IPU Assemblies in 2017 have included resolutions on “The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States”, “Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development” and “Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Democracy” as well as debates on UN peace-keeping, implementation of the Global Goals, climate change and disaster preparedness, global health challenges, gender issues and international disarmament matters, among many other priorities.

In reflecting upon IPU Assemblies this year, I must pay a particular tribute to the outgoing IPU President, Saber H. Chowdhury MP of Bangladesh, who has worked very closely with BGIPU throughout his three year tenure in the role. Mr Chowdhury brought to this task a clear-sighted vision for the part parliamentarians have to play in world affairs, leaving the IPU a more highly-regarded and effective body through his unflinching commitment to the cause of democracy and human rights and his skilled leadership of often contentious deliberations among the IPU membership. His concluding statement in St Petersburg on the state of democracy in the world today represents a landmark intervention and was a fitting reflection of his high hopes for improved democratic governance in all the world’s parliaments which he has championed. I have high expectations of a similar level of activism and ambition under his worthy successor, Senator Gabriela Cuevas Barron of Mexico who was elected at the 137th Assembly in St Petersburg.

In addition to IPU Assemblies, we have also sent UK delegations to a number of IPU-convened meetings, often providing parliamentary perspectives in connection with major global meetings. BGIPU supported UK participation in the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations in February (addressing global oceans policy in advance of the UN Oceans Summit) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) which was also held at the UN in New York in March. This month we are supporting three UK delegations to a Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, an IPU Conference on smart and humane migration in the Mediterranean in Malta as well as the 4th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Ottawa. In December, I will lead a small cross-party delegation to the Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in the margins of the WTO Ministerial Meeting.

Alongside our formal inward programme, BGIPU also hosted parliamentarians, officials and other interlocutors from a wide array of countries for shorter visits, including from Uruguay, Philippines, Pacific Alliance nations, Dominican Republic, Egypt as well as the President of Madagascar in addition to hosting programme staff from the IPU Secretariat to learn more about the UK Parliament and receiving a visit from the then IPU Presidency candidate, Senator Cuevas Barron.

This wide-ranging inter-parliamentary activity would not be possible, of course, without the invaluable support we receive from UK Ministers and Her Majesty's Ambassador's and Embassy staff overseas for which we are grateful. We also very much appreciate the involvement in our work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) with Heads of Department and desk officers regularly supporting our visit preparations, alongside the vital assistance provided by the Parliamentary Relations Department. I must also acknowledge the key contribution made by many Ambassadors and diplomatic mission staff here in London who continue to provide essential support to BGIPU's work throughout the year.

In closing this report, I must pay tribute to our outgoing Vice-Chair, Ian Liddell-Grainger MP who has come to the end of his three-year term. I would like in particular to highlight his outstanding contribution to our representation in the IPU in recent years, including his leading role guiding the governance and activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

internationally in his capacity as the Vice-President of the IPU Executive Committee. He was re-elected to the role for a second year after completing his first term which amply demonstrated the very high regard he was held by his parliamentary colleagues across the whole geopolitical breadth of the IPU. I look forward to Ian continuing to make a significant contribution to the work of the BGIPU for many years to come. In closing I would also wish to acknowledge the excellent support provided by the BGIPU Secretariat in all our work, recognising their skilled and effective stewardship of a difficult and diverse programme in a challenging and busy year for the organisation.

Nigel Evans MP
Chair, British Group IPU
15 November 2017

Director's Report



Mr Rick Nimmo
Director, BGIPU

In outlining the key management issues addressed by the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) Secretariat in 2017, I am grateful for the support of all BGIPU members from both Houses for our work during a year in which a snap general election took many of us by surprise, requiring resourcefulness and flexibility to maintain the integrity of our programme of work. In particular, I pay tribute to the outstanding performance of our Secretariat team who ensured BGIPU was able to deliver a diverse and relevant programme of inter-parliamentary activities to advance the UK's core inter-parliamentary interests.

This was the second year of our three-year Strategic Business Plan, adopted by the Executive Committee in February 2016, which guides our work and provides key programme objectives. Alongside the BGIPU Staff Handbook, this plan provides a very sound basis for our administrative, financial and human resources priorities in addition to ensuring solid foreign policy foundation for our activities. This also holds us effectively to meet our obligations under the Financial Memorandum (FM) with funding bodies in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords which was renewed in September 2017 after detailed review and renegotiation along lines approved by the Executive Committee earlier in the year.

In support of our 2018-19 Request for Funding in September 2017, I again completed a detailed review of achievements against the BGIPU objectives outlined in the Strategic Business Plan. This review highlighted key outcomes for the year including full compliance with BGIPU governance rules and strong levels of participation and satisfaction with our activities from members in both Houses. Again, BGIPU is on track to exceed its targeted number of inward and outward delegations for the financial year, as we did last year. I also noted highly positive feedback and praise for our Secretariat staff

from members and visiting delegations alike, along with continuing strong levels of cooperation with key stakeholders like the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and UK Missions abroad.

BGIPU has continued to carefully manage its financial reserves in line with FM expectations, although the suspension of our programme for four months due to the calling of the general election created very uneven expenditure patterns through the year which required adjustments to our requests for payment. The high quality of our accounts was acknowledged with another praiseworthy external Audit outcome which is a credit to both our Treasurer, Mr Nic Dakin MP, and the skill and diligence of our Finance and Administration Manager, Ms Jackie Rhodes.

In meeting core human resources obligations in 2017, BGIPU continued to offer staff full access to flexible working provisions in addition to managing more complex human resources issues in a sensitive manner as a responsible and inclusive employer. BGIPU implemented new pension arrangements to meet new statutory obligations in advance of our designated pensions staging date of January 2017. Our team is very grateful for the commitment and extensive knowledge of our contracted human resources adviser, Ms Alison MacDonald, who also ensures the BGIPU Staff Handbook remains up-to-date and consistent with the provisions of the relevant House of Commons staffing provisions, again in line with our FA obligations.

In line with past Executive Committee decisions, BGIPU now operates almost exclusively through electronic communications and online outreach tools, maintaining high quality and timely reporting on the BGIPU website and through Twitter. This includes regular newsletters and delegation reports to supplement the Annual Report which is now published online rather than being distributed by post which has resulted in healthy cost savings. Over the past 12 months, BGIPU has almost doubled its' number of Twitter followers and to date has sent about 12,000 tweets on its inter-parliamentary activities and other key events since first launching in 2012.

In terms of policy-related membership events, BGIPU have convened a range of policy events and delegation report-back meetings including presentations on IPU priorities such as human rights, global political and regional cooperation issues and gender equality matters. In addition to two roundtables meetings for members with a selection of UK Ambassadors in Africa and Latin American, the Secretariat also convened useful meetings with other UK Ambassadors during the FCO's Leadership week in July. In membership promotion events, we arranged three outreach stand events in Portcullis House on 25 January, 27 June and 6 September and the Chair also hosted an outreach reception for the new Executive Committee and other key stakeholders on 7 February.

BGIPU also ran our annual charity quiz night on 6 September (this year supporting child refugees with Safe Passage UK) which also aimed at raising awareness of our work and better engaging members and their staff in our activities. BGIPU have also established in 2017 a new partnership with the John Smith Trust to host the parliamentary component of their fellowship programme (twice yearly with one for fellows from Wider Europe and another for fellows from Central Asia).

Of particular note, complementing our other high priority work on gender issues such as the delegation to the Commission of the Status of Women at the UN in New York each year, BGIPU has continued to provide support for ongoing follow-up work prompted by the report "The Good Parliament" by Professor Sarah Childs which we helped launch in July 2016. This includes ongoing cooperation with and assistance to the House of Commons Reference Group in support of key IPU gender-sensitive parliament principles to make the UK Parliament a more representative and inclusive institution. It is particularly important that BGIPU remain centrally engaged in promoting the IPU's policies in this regard, not least due to recent heightened attention to gender equality and workplace harassment issues at the UK Parliament.

BGIPU maintains continuing close engagement with other inter-parliamentary bodies, particularly the UK Branch of the

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, including through our parallel-hosted diplomatic function for the State Opening of Parliament on 21 June 2017. We also enjoy mutually beneficial engagement with country-based and thematic All Party Parliamentary Groups, including in providing financial support to facilitate exchanges between APPGs and their overseas counterparts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BGIPU continues to benefit from the very strong support of many parliamentary colleagues in both Houses of Parliament, at all levels. The Secretariat particularly values our close cooperation with the Overseas Offices of both Houses and I acknowledge the excellent cooperation we enjoy with our budget holders, Mr Matthew Hamlyn and Mr Jake Vaughan and the staff of both Overseas Offices.

I offer my sincere thanks to all members of the Executive Committees for their guidance and support of BGIPU throughout 2017, here at the Palace of Westminster and on delegations, meetings and Assemblies abroad. I am particularly grateful to our BGIPU Officers and must make special mention of our outgoing Vice-Chair Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger MP who was also the Vice-President of the IPU Executive Committee through this year. His contribution to 12 Plus Steering Group meetings and at IPU Assemblies raised BGIPU's profile across the organisation and gave us a prominent role in guiding the scope and modalities of IPU activities in recent years.

I would also like to acknowledge Finance and Administrative Assistant, Ms Moyo Shodipo, who left BGIPU this month after working with us since March 2013 and I wish her well in any future endeavours.

Rick Nimmo
Director, British Group IPU
15 November 2017

Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union

Wednesday 7 December 2016

Opening Remarks by Mr Deputy Speaker

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rt. Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP):

First, I send apologies from Mr Speaker; as there is an important debate, he is in the Chamber. My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, I now call this Annual General Meeting to order. I extend a very warm welcome to everybody, and I hope you have had some time to review the 2016 Annual Report, which was published by the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on its website on 5 November—nothing to do with Parliament, I understand. Hard copies are available here for those who would like one.

Please note that there is an election ballot today, just below us in room W2. The election for the new Executive Committee will be dealt with under item 8. Before I come to item 2, may I say a big thank you to everybody involved in the IPU, especially the staff who ensure not only that we have a great reputation around the world but that we are well plugged in around the world? Thank you, Rick, to you and your team, from me, the Chair and everybody involved in the Committee. Thank you for what you do, and may it continue in the future.

Apologies for Absence

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Item 2 is apologies for absence. I will start with Mr Speaker's apology. Do we have any other apologies?

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

We have 24.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 13 January 2016

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

We are now required to adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 13 January 2016. These are printed on pages 17 to 34 of the 2016 Annual Report. May I have a proposer and seconder that the minutes are adopted as a true record of the meeting? (Proposed by Mr Laurence Robertson MP and seconded by Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger MP.)

All those in favour please raise your hand.

Any against? No.

I shall now sign the minutes as a true record.

If you are wondering why I am rushing, I want to make sure that Sir Alan can make his speech, as he has to leave very shortly.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Are there any matters arising from those minutes?

DIRECTOR:

None have been advised.

Adoption of the Annual Report for 2016

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I now have the privilege of inviting the Deputy Foreign Secretary, the right hon. Sir Alan Duncan, who is a friend of everyone in this House and in the other House, to propose the adoption of the 2016 Annual Report.

SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP:

I am delighted to be here for your Annual General Meeting. I did this once before when I was a Minister at the Department for International Development. The Foreign Secretary would have loved to be here, but unfortunately, he was unable to make it. As he might put it, “Fieri videatur a Christo quia”, which I am reliably informed means, “All things happen for a reason.” With him, you do not always know what the reason is, but in this case, the reason why I am here is that I have a deep respect for the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the work that you all do to strengthen and support peace and democracy in the wider world.

Of course, the British have been involved since the organisation was created, and the British Group’s commitment is as strong today as it was 127 years ago. That commitment is clearly visible in the Annual Report. The contribution of British parliamentarians is vital to the good work that the group does, which in turn complements the work we try to do in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and greatly assists our posts overseas. For that, from the Foreign Secretary and the entire Foreign Office, I say to all of you a very big thank you. In particular, my warm thanks go to Mr Speaker personally—Mr Deputy Speaker has explained why he cannot be here—for his continued commitment and support as Honorary President and to your redoubtable Chair, Nigel Evans.

It has been an eventful year for politics, not just in the UK but in many other countries as well. Hence, it has been a very busy year for you in the IPU. I imagine, for instance, that the observation mission during the referendum on the UK’s membership of the EU was an interesting experience for parliamentarians from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Switzerland. The result of that referendum will change our political landscape for ever. It will make the work of the British group even more vital, as the UK looks to build a new independent identity and, crucially, forge new and deeper relationships with partners around the world. You have a crucial role to play in this, and I know that I can rely on you to send a clear message to Governments across the world. That message is that we

are leaving the EU, but we are not leaving the world. The United Kingdom will continue to be a leading player on the global stage; we will remain a close friend and ally to our European neighbours; and we will strengthen our partnerships with friends further afield. In short, we will grasp the opportunities that leaving the EU will bring across the globe.

You have certainly worked hard already this year to get that message out. With inward and outward visits, events in Westminster and conferences, you have complemented and supported the work of the Foreign Office in promoting democracy, security and prosperity around the world. Your meetings with parliamentarians in this country and overseas have allowed us to share our unique and valuable experience with others in a way that benefits both them and us. I could highlight, for instance, particularly your visit to Burma in February to support the parliamentary strengthening programme for newly elected parliamentarians.

Protecting and promoting democracy across the world is a priority for the Foreign Office and one that we all take very seriously indeed. For instance, I am proud of the UK's work over the last four years in giving support to the Colombian peace process. We were pleased to share our own experience of legislating for the Northern Ireland peace process with them. Last week, in an item of very good news indeed, the Colombian Congress ratified a new peace deal that will officially—and, I fervently hope, lastingly—bring to an end over 50 years of conflict. [Hear, hear!]

Although this may prove controversial in some parts of the House, I was the first western Minister to visit Turkey after the attempted coup in July. I saw at first hand something that would have appalled us had it happened here. I saw for myself the Turkish Parliament building, which was bombed while Parliament was sitting. I saw the collapsed staircases, the shattered windows and the rubble bestrewn lobby, and that brought home to me, as I hope it would to anybody, the seriousness of that attack. More than the physical damage, I could see a country totally shaken by the event. I saw very perturbed

Turkish parliamentarians and a public who saw that attempted coup as an assault on the very notion of Turkish democracy itself. We have to keep this in the forefront of our minds when we talk to our Turkish counterparts, for whom this was a deep, searing experience. We have to bear that in mind when we talk, as we must, about the importance of the rule of law and human rights.

We must never be complacent. Those who consider parliamentary democracy to be the UK's greatest export are right, but your work needs to follow this up. It is part of the essential after-sales service that the IPU offers. It is not only the bilateral work you do that supports our aims; your multilateral engagement is equally vital. The new UN-IPU co-operation agreement signed this year in New York marked a significant step forward in relations between both organisations. I am well aware that the British Group has worked hard to strengthen that relationship even more. You attended the UN climate conference in Paris last December, which saw the agreement of the historic deal to reduce global carbon emissions. You complemented our work on global gender issues by working on the joint UN-IPU commission on women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development.

You have also worked hard to support the Government's prosperity agenda, by reinforcing our message around the world that Britain is open for business. Whether discussing opportunities for trade and investment with a visiting Saudi delegation, looking for commercial opportunities in Uruguay or banging the drum for London as the world's leading financial services hub, your contribution will be even more crucial as we look to forge new trade deals across the world. But, as we all know, there can be no prosperity without security, and here, too, I laud your efforts. They have ranged from showing solidarity with France in the wake of the horrendous Paris terrorist attacks and meeting the Estonian Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees on board HMS Iron Duke to discussing at the IPU in Geneva how Parliaments can respond to human rights abuses.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is clear—your Annual Report

bears this out—that your work covers the whole waterfront of international issues and challenges. It complements and reinforces the Government’s priorities. It has always been beneficial, but perhaps never more so than now. Thank you, and I look forward to what I know will be another interesting and constructive year. It is in that spirit that I hereby propose the adoption of the Annual Report. [Applause.]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I thank the Deputy Foreign Secretary for those great comments, as ever. I now invite a north-west colleague, Liz McInnes, the shadow Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to second the 26th Annual Report.

LIZ McINNES MP:

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I suppose I am here in the capacity of shadow Deputy Foreign Secretary. Emily Thornberry sends her apologies. It is an honour to be asked to second the adoption of this report and to follow the Deputy Foreign Secretary.

We are all joined here today through unity—a union of appreciation for the work of the BGIPU, which unites Government and Opposition Members, past present and into the future. I think that we might all agree that unity has not been the defining political message of 2016. Sadly, that message has been one of division, which has seeped heavily into our political discourse not only here but across Europe and further afield. Many will have felt that this year has been a momentous one, and not necessarily in a good way. It has been a year of a seismic shift of the political and cultural plates: the fractious European Union referendum; the acrimonious US presidential election; and the indescribable and senseless loss of our fellow parliamentarian and friend, Jo Cox, who I am sure we would all like to pay tribute to here today. [“Hear, hear!”]

The values and principles of the IPU are more relevant and more needed now than ever before. Let us not forget that the IPU was formed by a bond and political will between William Randal

Cremer and Frédéric Passy—men from two diametrically opposed backgrounds of social class. Cremer had been born into extreme poverty in England, leaving school at just 12 years old to go and work as a carpenter and, latterly, as a trade union leader, which led to him being elected as an MP in 1885. Passy, on the other hand, was from a wealthy and influential French family. He was born in the Parisian suburbs and educated at the University of Paris, where he would go on to be a highly respected economist. But they both believed in unity through the premise that peace and mutual understanding could be obtained through political dialogue. As our late friend and colleague, Jo Cox, said so memorably, “We are far more united and have far more in common with each other than things that divide us.” That truth was just as important then as it is today.

This year, the BGIPU continues its work by hosting delegations from Saudi Arabia, Mongolia, Iceland, Nepal, Albania and Iraq, with outward delegations travelling to south Asia, South America, the Caribbean and continental Europe. This provides an indication of the global reach of the BGIPU to discuss progression on issues around human rights, inter-parliamentary co-operation, peace, security and sustainable development. That reach keeps extending to further corners of the world.

This year we welcomed a delegation from Mongolia, led by its former Prime Minister, while a delegation of our very own Members of Parliament travelled to Bolivia to meet the President of the Senate and the Foreign Minister. Both countries are in the infancy of their new-found democracies. Mongolia held only its seventh parliamentary elections since transitioning to multi-party competitive rule in 1990, while Bolivia has only had a democratically elected Government since 1982.

Colleagues have spoken to me personally and said how valuable those experiences have been for them in learning and highlighting where Westminster can learn from other Parliaments and in turn how we can show burgeoning democracies lessons in governance and democratic structure.

The BGIPU continues to be active among member Parliaments in advancing the IPU's priority work on women's rights and gender equality. It has supported recent work undertaken by Professor Sarah Childs to make the UK Parliament a more inclusive institution through her landmark "The Good Parliament" report.

The wider IPU commitment to gender equality was also underscored in March when, alongside the UN, the IPU co-organised the parliamentary session of the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which was attended by many of the world's parliamentarians. That was followed by the release of the IPU's survey on the threat of political violence against women, which was launched in October. Just recently, last month, there was the launch of a toolkit for gender-sensitive Parliaments. It is good to see the BGIPU tackling the issue of inequality in politics. Even now, there are still more male MPs in the current Parliament than the total number of female MPs to have ever been elected.

In 2016, making the political world accessible to women is still a matter of urgency, and I hope the BGIPU will keep up its work, because without parity, unity can never be achieved. For all Parliaments across the world, there are universal truths and beliefs that we all intrinsically share with one another, and I know that the BGIPU will continue to be a platform and institution to foster and promote those values.

Finally, I thank Nigel Evans for his chairmanship and finish by saying that it is a great privilege to second the adoption of the report. I wish the IPU well for the next 126 years. [Applause.]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I thank the deputy shadow Secretary, Liz McInnes. Thank you for those kind words. The 2016 Annual Report has now been proposed and seconded. Is it agreed that we adopt the report?

All those in favour please raise your hands.

Any against? No. Excellent.

The Annual Report is unanimously adopted.

Presentation of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 by Fabian Hamilton MP, Honorary Treasurer of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Fabian Hamilton is the outgoing Honorary Treasurer of the BGIPU. He will present the Financial Statements. Before he speaks, I thank him for his outstanding work over the past three years. Whoever takes the role up, he has set the bar, and it will take some keeping up with. Before I ask him to speak, the Foreign Office Minister needs to depart for other countries around the world.

SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP:

Thank you all very much indeed. I have enjoyed it.

FABIAN HAMILTON MP:

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am delighted to present the Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2016 shown on pages 38 to 64 of our 2016 Annual Report. These statements cover the 2015-16 financial year, but I note that the rest of the Annual Report reflects all BGIPU activities since the 2015 annual general meeting, which was held in January 2016, on a calendar year rather than a financial year basis.

The 2015-16 Financial Statements have been prepared under a new accounting standard called FRS 102. That has resulted in some small changes to the comparative figures for the prior year, which are explained in detail in note 15 on pages 63 to 64. There have also been a number of changes to the format and to disclosures in the notes.

Kreston Reeves LLP conducted the audit. Peter Hudson, the audit

partner, and Kirsty McMeechan, the audit manager, are both with us today, and I would like to thank them for their efforts. On page 51 of the 2016 Annual Report, our auditors report their unqualified opinion of the Financial Statements. The Audit Committee deliberated on 28 June 2016 and recommended that the Executive Committee approve the Financial Statements, which the Chair and Treasurer signed at the Executive Committee meeting on 12 July 2016.

The income and expenditure account appears on page 52 of the report. Income increased from £1,073,547 to £1,285,881. The group received £1,285,000 grant-in-aid, representing 100% of the maximum available, compared to £1,072,800, or 85%, in the year ended 31 March 2015. Bank interest rose from £646 in the previous year to £814, owing to higher cash reserves during the first half of the year.

Expenditure increased marginally from £1,289,677 to £1,308,283. Subscription expenses decreased marginally by around £4,000, with the majority of that cost being the IPU subscription fee, which reduced because of changes in the UN scale of assessment that saw total UK share in Swiss francs fall to CHF 529,100 in 2016 from CHF 561,200 in 2015.

The aggregated costs of conferences, IPU seminars and outward delegations increased from £257,849 to £280,615. The main Assembly costs increased from £56,753 in the prior year to £110,341, comprising a substantial portion of the costs from the 2015 Spring Assembly in Hanoi, those of the Autumn Assembly in Geneva and most of the costs of the 2016 Spring Assembly in Lusaka. Delegates were sent to twelve smaller IPU meetings for a total cost of £71,552. Six outward delegations and one capacity-building visit were undertaken at a total cost of £98,722. Six inward delegations and six smaller events classed as Days in Parliament, together with a seminar on eastern European security, were hosted at a total cost of £185,977. Funding was claimed by four all-party parliamentary country groups at a total cost of £860, considerably less than in the previous year.

The cost of staff salaries and related expenses decreased marginally after restatement from £415,857 to £413,119, with seven permanent employees in post throughout the year, plus one who resigned being replaced after a short period of vacancy through a competitive selection process. Employees received pay increases in line with the House of Commons three-year pay settlement, and cover for one employee taking maternity leave was provided by a secondment from the Commons Overseas Office.

Printing, stationery, postage and telephone costs fell for the sixth successive year, as a result of the increased use of electronic communications. Publishing and public relations, general hospitality and depreciation costs have also increased slightly. Audit fees decreased owing to the timings of Audit Committee meetings, while insurance costs remained static. Sundry expenses including bank charges and other office costs have fallen marginally. The net effect was a deficit for the year of £22,402.

The balance sheet on page 53 shows net assets have decreased from £644,879 to £622,477, reflecting the deficit. Fixed assets have also decreased marginally, and a full summary of the changes appears in note 5 on page 59.

Current assets have decreased, mainly due to the fall in the bank balances from £478,375 to £377,336. The debtors of £10,035 comprise mainly additional hotel costs of delegates on an inbound delegation, an employee season ticket loan and private hotel costs related to participation in the 134th Assembly, subsequently recovered against subsistence costs.

Creditors and accruals have decreased from £174,292 to just £56,704. These mostly comprise invoices and expense claims related to events held in February and March 2016, three months secondment costs, pension contributions and payroll taxes for March.

The cash flow statement on page 54 highlights the continuing decrease in cash of £101,039, compared to £115,130 the previous year. The financial memorandum dated 1 April 2014 was in effect throughout the 2015-16 financial year. A new version will be negotiated to come into effect on 1 April 2017. The Annual Report containing the Financial Statements has been published on the BGIPU website for the fifth year running.

Finally, I thank Jackie Rhodes, who does all our accounting and has been absolutely brilliant for the last three years that I have done the job. As Mr Deputy Speaker said, this is my last report as Treasurer. I wish my colleague and friend, Nic Dakin, who will be succeeding me the best of luck. He will get massively brilliant support from our excellent staff. I commend these accounts to you. [Applause.]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Any questions for the Treasurer? Any questions for the future Treasurer? No.

Re-appointment of Auditors

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

We have to appoint the auditors for the current year. Do we have a proposal that our current auditors, Reeves & Co, be re-appointed? May I have a proposer and a seconder? (Proposed by Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger MP and seconded by Lord Anderson.)

All those in favour please raise your hand.

Any against? Excellent. Reeves & Co are appointed as the Group's auditors for the current year. Thank you for your work.

Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for the period 2016-2017

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I now move on to the BGIPU's elections. I take it that the AGM is

willing to confirm the election of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Group as notified to all members by the Secretariat on 28 November and, in addition to those confirmations note subsequent agreement from the Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP that she too will stand as the Honorary Vice-President. As there are no objections to that outcome, I am pleased to confirm that the following Officers and the Executive Committee members are elected unopposed: Chair, Mr Nigel Evans MP; Vice-Chair, Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger MP; Vice-Chair, Rt. Hon. Ann Clwyd MP; Vice-Chair to the peers, Lord Anderson; Treasurer, Mr Nick Dakin MP; as Committee members, the Conservative peers Lord Jopling, Baroness Hooper, Lord Gilbert and Lord Dholakia; the Labour MPs Gavin Shuker, Wayne David, Roberta Blackman-Woods, Mike Gapes, Fabian Hamilton; the Labour peer Lord Dubs; the SNP MPs Dr Lisa Cameron and Stuart Donaldson; and the Cross-Bench peer the Earl of Sandwich.

I congratulate the Members on their election. The ballots are in process for the Government party MP members of the Committee. The ballots will close at 17.30, but we need two tellers. Is anybody willing to be a teller? If not, we will have to press gang. (Tellers: Ian Paisley MP and Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP.) I thank the two tellers.

After this meeting has ended, whichever is the latter, the final election result will be confirmed at the conclusion of the AGM and it will be posted on the IPU room door and the BGIPU website.

Speech by Chair of the BGIPU, Mr Nigel Evans MP

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I would now like to invite the re-elected Chair of the BGIPU, Mr Nigel Evans, to take the floor.

NIGEL EVANS MP:

Thank you, Lindsay. It is a delight to be here, and thank you for the confidence people have shown in me. Thank you, Lindsay,

for standing in for Mr Speaker, who is unavoidably detained in the Chamber. It is appropriate because Lindsay and I were both on the delegation recently to Uruguay, and we both visited Argentina as well and had discussions with the ambassador there.

It is good to see Ian Liddell-Grainger here as well, who is not only our Deputy Chairman but Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. In Alan's absence, I am grateful for his contribution and I am also grateful to Liz. Thank you for proposing and seconding the Annual Report.

Mike, thank you for all the incredible hard work you have done as Vice-Chairman. We are extremely grateful, as we are to you, Fabian, as Treasurer. You have both come to the end of your terms, but you are still going to serve the IPU, as you both remain on the Executive. Thank you very much for all that you have done. I look forward to working with you in future.

Across the broad range of the BGIPU's bilateral and multilateral activities, we aim through parliamentary diplomacy to complement the essential work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other arms of the UK Government abroad in our joint goal of advancing our international interests to make Britain stronger and more prosperous.

Co-operation and mutual understanding between Front-Bench Ministers and Back-Bench parliamentarians on issues as vitally important as Britain's international relations are essential. That will become only more important as we leave the European Union and look to doing far more bilaterals with some of the 27 other countries, which will be in our future programme as well as in the past.

Ian and I, along with Rick and Dominique, visited Paris shortly after that awful terrorist attack and laid flowers on behalf of our IPU Group to show solidarity with the French people at that horrendous

time.

As the Annual Report shows, 2016 was a busy year for us and we had a wide range of inter-parliamentary exchanges and activities delivered for members and very strong levels of participation from both Houses of Parliament. We look forward to your continued participation, as we near the end of the year's programme and take up new priorities for next year. In the lead up to our next year's Assembly in Dhaka in March 2017, we hope to have inward delegations from Argentina and Poland and send delegations to Germany, Kosovo and Hungary.

We also hope to continue important work on the IPU priority issue of gender equality and political empowerment, with a one-day conference in January and our very popular delegation to the annual Commission on the Status of Women at the UN in New York in March. We have already got a lot of applications for that.

Our Executive Committee will also meet in January to agree a new forward programme for the following year and part of 2018, which will also include our participation in the 137th Assembly in St Petersburg in October next year. I look forward to as many BGIPU members as possible benefiting from these plans, as we work together to ensure strong and mutually beneficial relations with counterparts abroad and a very active UK presence in the work of the world body of parliaments, the IPU.

I would like to express gratitude for the excellent work of our Secretariat. It is absolutely true that without them this would not work. We recognise the important work they do here in Westminster in providing a very active programme of events and visits. That is not easy because we were due to have the Argentinians in already and that got cancelled and has to be rescheduled. With their expertise, diligence and absolute commitment, they really do make a difference to the work of the IPU. I am very grateful to them for everything that they do.

In a time of increasing global uncertainty, it remains vital that we as parliamentarians engage with our counterparts overseas productively and diligently to build a better, more peaceful and prosperous world for us all. We do that in so many different ways. I always say that the big difference between what we do and what Governments do is that Governments do things Government to Government, but we do them MP to MP. That makes an absolute difference in the way that we work, in as much as we can talk to the Chinese and the Russians in a way that Governments cannot. I hope that we will eventually get the United States of America to rejoin the IPU—perhaps in my lifetime, but I do not know how long I am going to live.

The BGIPU continues to provide us with important and unique opportunities to carry out our vital parliamentary work in pursuit of Britain's broader international interests. I thank you for your interest, and I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

Any other Business

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May I confirm with the Secretariat that there has been no written notification, in accordance with BGIPU rules, of any other matters to be raised? None have been raised.

Closure of the Meeting

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER:

We have now come to the end of the agenda. I declare the meeting closed and thank you all for your attendance.

Officers and Executive Committee

Following the Annual General Meeting held on **Wednesday 7 December 2016**, the under-mentioned were elected as Officers and Members of the Executive Committee

BGIPU Honorary Presidents

Rt Hon John Bercow MP (The Speaker)

Rt Hon the Lord Fowler (The Lord Speaker)

BGIPU President

Rt Hon Theresa May MP (The Prime Minister)

BGIPU Vice-Presidents:

Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP

Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP

Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP

Ms Emily Thornberry MP

Ms Kate Osamor MP

Mr Ivan Lewis MP

Ms Mary Creagh MP

Rt Hon the Baroness Boothroyd PC OM

Rt Hon the Baroness Hayman

Rt Hon the Baroness D'Souza CMG

Rt Hon the Lord Owen CH

Rt Hon the Lord Hague of Richmond PC FRSL

Meetings of the Executive Committee

Since the last Annual General Meeting on 7 December 2016 there have been four Executive Committee meetings: Tuesday 7 February, Monday 20 March, Tuesday 11 July and Monday 30 October.

Officers & Executive Committee (As of 7 December 2016)

Chair:

Nigel Evans MP

Vice-Chairs:

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP

Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP

Rt Hon the Lord Anderson DL

Treasurer:

Nic Dakin MP

Executive Committee:

Conservative Party

Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP

Karen Lumley MP

Andrew Rosindell MP

James Duddridge MP

Bob Blackman MP

Conor Burns MP

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Laurence Robertson MP

The Baroness Hooper CMG

Rt Hon the Lord Jopling DL

The Lord Gilbert of Panteg

Liberal Democrat Party

Rt Hon the Lord Dholakia OBE DL

Democratic Unionist Party

Ian Paisley MP*

Labour Party

Wayne David MP

Mike Gapes MP

Fabian Hamilton MP

Roberta Blackman-Woods MP

Gavin Shuker MP

The Lord Dubs

Scottish National Party

Dr Lisa Cameron MP

Stuart Donaldson MP

Cross Bench

The Earl of Sandwich

Rt Hon the Baroness D'Souza
CMG*

*** (Subsequently co-opted)**

Officers & Executive Committee (After the General Election 8 June 2017)

Chair:

Nigel Evans MP

Vice-Chairs:

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP

Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP

Rt Hon the Lord Anderson DL

Treasurer:

Nic Dakin MP

Executive Committee:

Conservative Party

Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP

Andrew Rosindell MP

James Duddridge MP

Bob Blackman MP

Conor Burns MP

Laurence Robertson MP

The Baroness Hooper CMG

Rt Hon the Lord Jopling DL

The Lord Gilbert of Panteg

Liberal Democrat Party

Rt Hon the Lord Dholakia OBE DL

Democratic Unionist Party

Ian Paisley MP

Labour Party

Wayne David MP

Mike Gapes MP

Fabian Hamilton MP

Roberta Blackman-Woods MP

Gavin Shuker MP

The Lord Dubs

Scottish National Party

Dr Lisa Cameron MP

Cross Bench

The Earl of Sandwich

Rt Hon the Baroness D'Souza CMG

Membership of the British Group

As a result of rule changes adopted at the AGM on December 3 2014, all members of both Houses of Parliament are deemed to be full members of the BGIPU. As of 15 November 2017, total membership of the group is 1,449.



**Inward Delegation of Turkish
MPs meeting Minister Rt
Hon Sir Alan Duncan MP**



**BGIPU Chair Nigel Evans MP supporting the IPU
Solidarity Fund at the 136th Assembly in Dhaka**



**House of Commons Speaker, Rt Hon
John Bercow MP promotes IPU
International Day of Democracy**



**Inward Delegation of Senators from the
Philippines with Stephen Pound MP**



**Outward UK Delegation
to Serbia**

**Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP speaking on the
plight of the Rohingya Muslims at the
137th IPU Assembly in St Petersburg**



Outward UK Delegation to Kosovo

**Outward UK Delegation
to Iceland**



REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

**Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement
Year ended 31 March 2017**

**Kreston Reeves LLP
Statutory Auditors & Chartered Accountants
Third Floor
24 Chiswell Street
London
EC1Y 4YX**

Annual Governance Statement

Governance framework

The British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) is an unincorporated association comprising members of both Houses of the UK Parliament united in their support for the aim of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue. As a result of an amendment to the BGIPU Rules in December 2014, all members of both houses of the UK Parliament are now deemed to be full members of the BGIPU with a right to participate in the Group's activities. Governance of the BGIPU is exercised through a 26-member Executive Committee, appointed annually by its entire membership (with provision for up to four additional members to be co-opted annually). The Executive Committee approves and oversees the implementation of a Forward Programme of engagement with counterpart parliaments, the principal organs of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and other bodies as appropriate in pursuit of advancing the parliamentary dimension of Britain's foreign relations.

Aside from Honorary Presidential posts, the Officers of the BGIPU comprise the Chair, three vice-Chairs, Honorary Treasurer and the Director. The Officers exercise financial authority on behalf of the Executive Committee on a day to day basis. The Officers meet formally as required, usually in advance of any Executive Committee meeting. All decisions taken by the Officers are duly reported to the full Executive Committee at its next meeting. They are supported by a Secretariat, led by the Director and senior staff comprising a Deputy Director, Finance and Administration Manager and well-qualified and appropriately experienced international programme management and administrative support staff.

The Honorary Treasurer as Accounting Officer is responsible for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the aims and key objectives of the BGIPU whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets in a manner that is consistent with the Financial Memorandum (FM) issued by both Houses of Parliament for the use of the BGIPU's grant in aid. The Honorary Treasurer is also responsible for ensuring such internal control measures are fully implemented in compliance with relevant Treasury and other guidelines. In particular, the role seeks to ensure that all resources are used economically, efficiently and cost-effectively including that the Executive Committee take financial considerations into account in making operational and policy decisions.

The Director is responsible to the Officers and the Executive Committee for the implementation of their decisions and for the administration of the organisation and its Secretariat; ensuring that appropriate personnel management policies are observed. The position is also responsible to the Honorary Treasurer for ensuring that effective procedures are in place to control the expenditure of the organisation, to maintain a record of losses, special payments or write-offs, to calculate the budget required to carry out the organisation's authorised activities and to submit the annual request for grant in aid.

The full Executive Committee considers the preparation of the organisation's forward programme of activities and facilitates through Selection Committees, the identification of the most appropriately qualified delegates for Assemblies of the Union and other inter-parliamentary activities. It also decides what action is to be taken on recommendations and resolutions of Assemblies and the Governing Council of the Union. It also promotes membership of the BGIPU and has overall control of the Group's funds. The Executive Committee is also responsible for formal correspondence with the Secretariat of the IPU, consideration and adoption of the BGIPU Strategic Business Plan and authorisation of the appointment of the Director of the Secretariat.

Under the authority of the Executive Committee, the Audit Committee gives advice to the Honorary Treasurer on the adequacy of audit arrangements and on the implications of assurances provided in respect of risk and control in the organisation. The Committee regularly reviews the organisation's Risk Register and, when necessary, draws to the attention of the Honorary Treasurer and the Executive Committee any additional measures needed to control risk, or if the scope of the external audit needs to be adjusted.

Arrangements for funding inter-parliamentary groups in the UK Parliament have evolved over many years. While funding of the BGIPU originally came from member contributions, and later the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Treasury, in recent years the funding has been provided directly by both Houses of Parliament with 70 percent from the House of Commons and 30 percent from the House of Lords.

A new FM was negotiated in February 2017 and cleared by the BGIPU Executive Committee on 20 March 2017 but pending final approval in both Houses, final agreement is anticipated to conclude sometime in mid-2017. The FM provides the basis for the continued financial support of BGIPU by both Houses of Parliament. This latest iteration was negotiated, with minor updates, drawing on past memoranda agreed in 2009, 2012, and 2014 to set out the arrangements governing the funding relationship. The current FM requires the preparation of a detailed annual business plan, including estimated costs of programme and non-programme expenditure, regular quarterly reports of outturn figures and an overall commitment to meet recommended limits on reserves. BGIPU is also required to follow specific administrative, financial and human resources policies, analogous to those operated by the House of Commons, albeit proportionate and relevant to BGIPU's own unique character and circumstances.

In response to the findings of the internal audit undertaken in early 2016, conveyed in a management letter from the Head of Internal

Audit to the Chair of the BGIPU, the Risk Register was redrafted prior to consideration at the next meeting of the BGIPU Audit Committee in March 2017, and a Procurement Policy was drafted, approved internally, and promulgated to members of the Secretariat in January 2017. Some matters for consideration suggested in the internal Audit outcome were also addressed in negotiating the new Financial Memorandum between BGIPU and funding bodies in both Houses.

Internal financial oversight is exercised by an Audit Committee selected from members of the Executive Committee as noted above. The BGIPU also has an annual external audit, with authorised financial statements, an explanatory commentary, and a key issues memorandum presented to the Audit Committee in mid-year for consideration and referral to the Executive Committee. In accordance with the Rules of the Group (last reviewed and amended in December 2014), the BGIPU produces an Annual Report in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

Work of the Executive Committee

The BGIPU Executive Committee met on six occasions during the 2016-17 Financial Year being convened on Tuesday 12 April 2016, Tuesday 24 May 2016, Tuesday 12 July 2016, Tuesday 1 November 2016, Tuesday 7 February 2017 and Monday 20 March 2017. The Audit Committee was convened on Tuesday 28 June 2016 to recommend approval of final accounts, and on Tuesday 7 March 2017 to consider the auditors' Letter of Engagement and supporting documents, and the Risk Register.

The Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 7 December 2016 to elect a new Executive Committee for 2017, including a new Honorary Treasurer.

Under the guidance of the Executive Committee, the Director has continued efforts to improve the organisation's effectiveness through a sharper focus on BGIPU's strategic priorities and regular review of planning and implementation procedures. Consistent with the

requirements of the FM, the Director submitted to the funding bodies in September 2016 the annual review of the Executive Committee-approved 3-year Strategic Business Plan adopted in February 2016. BGIPU also submitted detailed forward planning budgets for the next three financial years in support of BGIPU's 2017/18 Request for Funding. In addition, the Executive Committee approved a detailed Forward Programme drawing on the objectives set out in the Business Plan as the basis for BGIPU's targeted inter-parliamentary exchanges and international relations work. The Secretariat is also developing a framework for evaluation and monitoring to better inform internal review mechanisms and objective-setting, gathering data and feedback from participants on both a quantitative and qualitative basis.

Under the day-to-day management of the Director, and with the assistance of a specialist human resources expert brought in on a contract basis, the Executive Committee has taken all appropriate steps to ensure staff members are employed on terms broadly in line with those of the House of Commons as required in the FM, including following the appropriate pay-bands and salary levels applying to House staff. The BGIPU Secretariat also maintains a comprehensive Staff Handbook, updated regularly in line with any relevant changes to House of Commons policies or practices.

Under the guidance of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat has continued to provide comprehensive activity reporting through its website, in addition to using social media and electronic newsletters to make the Group's work more accessible and ensuring its promotional activities are cost-effective. Recognising the need for professional and personal development, there has also been an emphasis on staff training including boosting information technology, communications and design skills, ongoing financial management and budget training, further development of international relations policy skills and support for specialised language training.

Risks

BGIPU's mechanisms and procedures are designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than eliminate all risk of failure to achieve the policies, aims and objectives of the organisation. In doing this, it can provide only reasonable, not absolute assurance of effectiveness. This involves identifying and prioritising the risks for the achievement of the organisation's objectives, evaluating the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact in that event, so best to anticipate and manage risks effectively.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The process of risk management in the BGIPU is based on the judgement and authority of the Executive Committee, including the advice of the Director. As far as possible, BGIPU employees are encouraged to take full ownership of their work and be responsible for their part of the risk control process. Members of staff are appropriately informed, guided and trained to manage risk relevant to their particular responsibilities, including close attention to ensuring due probity and care in the expenditure of public monies. A working environment which encourages teamwork and dialogue, encouraging regular staff meetings and opportunities for consultation, provides an effective process for the identification and dissemination of best practice and lessons learned. Feedback to the Secretariat is provided by the Officers and Executive Committee and by open report back meetings following completion of projects, attended by the MPs and Peers who have participated in them and other interested stakeholders, including government officials.

Risk Control Framework

A Risk Register has been compiled and approved by the Executive Committee, and forms the focus of the organisation's risk management strategy (last reviewed in March 2017). The Director also undertook specialist Risk Management training in 2014 based on House of Commons procedures. The Executive Committee has delegated authority to the Audit Committee to regularly monitor and scrutinise the Risk Register and to take appropriate action where necessary. The Audit Committee reports back to the Executive Committee on a regular basis to ensure any issues are fully discussed.

Risk management is embedded in the organisation by all activity being approved by the Executive Committee, by staff reporting and commenting upon good practice and by constant review of expenditure and regular scrutiny of the Risk Register by the Audit Committee. Greater clarity around BGIPU practices and policies has been encouraged through the work undertaken on the BGIPU Staff Handbook, including the approval by the Executive Committee in July 2014 of reviewed travel and subsistence policies for BGIPU Members titled “Guidance for Members Travelling Overseas on BGIPU Delegations”.

Most residual risks are low. The main risk priorities for the organisation are in the areas of effective project management, which in turn depends upon the professionalism and motivation of staff, a coherent trail from policy decisions to project delivery, and the promotion of best practice. Past structural weaknesses in only having one staff member occupied with finance and administration tasks was addressed in early 2013 by the recruitment of a Finance and Administrative Assistant which has strengthened capacities over time, (although the incumbent of this post has been absent on maternity leave since July 2016). This has also helped address financial risks related to fraud or error in ensuring enhanced scrutiny of expenditure and accounts. Potential compliance risks, including regarding the taxation status of the BGIPU, were addressed fully and resolved through accessing specialist advice and effective remediation action by the Executive Committee.

Review of Effectiveness

It is a significant enhancement to the Group’s overall corporate governance that the Executive Committee adopted in February 2016 a multi-year Strategic Business Plan, governing the period 2016/17 to 2018/19. This long-term planning process combined with appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms allows the Group to be in a stronger position to assess its effectiveness with key objectives. The inclusion of an indicative annual programme also allows the Executive Committee to better judge the scope and level of inter-

parliamentary activity, in addition to ensuring the impact of key outcomes in meeting the Group's goals. While notionally independent of the management arrangements of both Houses of Parliament, the fact that the BGIPU is entirely dependent on external funding from Parliament requires it to maintain the full confidence and support of its funding partners. This requires close attention to the provisions of the FM and sufficient transparency and probity to ensure that funding levels are sufficient for implementation of the programme activities being planned. If funding is reduced or withdrawn, there could be insufficient resources available to meet core elements of the Forward Programme and this puts the BGIPU's ability to meet its key objectives at risk. A close, consultative and effective relationship with its funding bodies in both Houses is essential, requiring BGIPU to fully comply with the FM in all its aspects, including prudent management of any reserves.

Based on the feedback of members through formal meetings and informal channels, the support and regular exchanges with the Group's key funding partners, and other key stakeholders, including the IPU Secretariat in Geneva, the FCO and other relevant UK government bodies, I assess that the Executive Committee and Secretariat are undertaking the key roles and responsibilities of the BGIPU to an appropriate level of effectiveness. This includes with regard to its cost-effective use of public monies, its employment responsibilities to staff and its management of operational risk.

Mindful of the key monitoring role played by both the BGIPU's funding bodies in the Houses of Parliament, I assess the BGIPU's governance mechanisms to be robust, allowing for appropriate management oversight by the Executive Committee, including through the combined financial scrutiny and risk management roles of the Audit Committee. Combined with independent external audit mechanisms, I am confident there are sufficient measures in place to ensure the Group's inter-parliamentary activities are well-targeted and they represent effective use of the public monies provided for this purpose.

As Honorary Treasurer, I am assured by reports from the Audit

Committee and through witnessing the deliberations of the Officers and the Executive Committee that the current BGIPU governance structure is sustainable and sufficiently robust in all aspects. On this basis, I have every confidence in concluding that the governance of BGIPU adequately addresses the expectations of its membership, can be responsive to changes in its operating environment, fulfils the expectations of its funding bodies and fully meets all its financial, administrative and programme obligations to a fully satisfactory level.

(Signed)

N Dakin MP

Honorary Treasurer

11 July 2017

Statement of the Executive Committee's responsibilities

Under the BGIPU's rules, the duties of the Executive Committee of the BGIPU include control and expenditure of the organisation's funds. It is also required to ensure that financial statements (duly audited) are prepared. The Executive Committee of the BGIPU has accepted responsibility for the preparation of these financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 which are intended by them to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and of the surplus for that period. The Executive Committee has accepted that the financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In preparing these financial statements, the Executive Committee has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- stated whether applicable accounting standards have been followed; subject to any material departures being disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as it believes that the organisation will continue to function for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the balance sheet.

The Executive Committee has general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to it to safeguard the assets of the BGIPU and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

The Executive Committee confirms that, so far as it is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the organisation's auditors are unaware; and that it has taken all the steps that it ought to have taken to make itself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the organisation's auditors are aware of that information.

Report of the independent auditors to the members of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

We have audited the financial statements of British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the year ended 31 March 2017 set out on the following pages, which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

This report is made solely to the organisation's members, as a body determined by the rules of the organisation. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the organisation's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the organisation and the organisation's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Executive Committee and auditors (Firm)

The Executive Committee's responsibilities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the organisation's rules are set out in the Statement of Executive Committee's responsibilities on the previous page.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view. We also report to you if, in our opinion, a satisfactory system of control over transactions has not been maintained, if the organisation has not kept proper accounting records, or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the other information contained in the Annual Governance Statement and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements.

We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the organisation's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the members; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Governance Statement to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, where we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the organisation's affairs as at 31 March 2017 and of its results for the year then ended and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Opinion on Annual Governance Statement

In our opinion the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

(Signed)

Kreston Reeves LLP

Statutory Auditors & Chartered Accountants

Third Floor

24 Chiswell Street

London

EC1Y 4YX

Date: 11 June 2017

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2017

	Note	2017 £	2016 £
Income			
Grant in aid	1	1,300,400	1,285,000
Donations/ Subscriptions received from members	1	60	67
Interest receivable	1	509	814
		<u>1,300,969</u>	<u>1,285,881</u>
Expenditure			
Subscriptions		372,088	395,758
Conferences, IPU seminars and outward delegations		185,770	280,615
Inward delegations, BGIPU seminars and days in Parliament		119,9266	185,977
All party groups		16,369	860
Salaries, national insurance and other staff costs	3	436,261	413,119
Printing, stationery and publications		2,480	2,543
Postage and telephone		317	453
Publishing and public relations		11,510	5,912
Audit fee for the audit of these financial statements		7,561	6,830
Insurance		5,317	5,281
General hospitality		968	1,792
Sundry expenses		7,198	4,406
Donation to the IPU Solidarity fund	15	24,286	
Depreciation of fixed assets	5	2,841	4,837
		<u>1,192,232</u>	<u>1,308,283</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	10	<u>108,787</u>	<u>(22,402)</u>
Opening Reserves		622,477	644,879
Closing Reserves	10	<u>731,214</u>	<u>622,477</u>

The income and expenditure account has been prepared on the basis that all activities are continuing activities.

There are no other items to be recognised in other comprehensive income.

Notes 1 to 15 form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheet

at 31 March 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		£	£
Fixed assets	5	7,767	8,975
Current assets			
Debtors	6	4,296	10,035
Prepayments and accrued income	6	315,178	282,835
Cash at bank and in hand	7	<u>440,740</u>	<u>377,336</u>
		760,214	670,206
Current liabilities			
Creditors	8	<u>(36,767)</u>	<u>(56,704)</u>
Net current assets		<u>723,447</u>	<u>613,502</u>
Net assets		<u><u>731,214</u></u>	<u><u>622,477</u></u>
Financed by:			
General fund	10	<u>731,213</u>	<u>622,477</u>
		<u><u>731,213</u></u>	<u><u>622,477</u></u>

Notes 1 to 15 form part of the financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the undersigned and authorised for issue on 12 July 2017.

(Signed)
N Dakin MP
Honorary Treasurer

(Signed)
N Evans MP
Chairman

Cash flow statement at 31 March 2017

Note	2017	2016
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the financial year	108,737	(22,402)
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	(509)	(814)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(26,604)	37,033
Decrease in creditors	(19,937)	(117,588)
Depreciation charge	2,841	4,837
Purchase of fixed assets	(1,633)	(2,919)
Net cash flow from operating activities	62,895	(101,853)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest received	509	814
Net cash flow from investing activities	509	814
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	63,404	(101,039)
Cash at the beginning of the year	377,336	478,375
Cash at the end of the year	440,740	377,336
Cash bank and in hand	440,740	377,336

Notes forming part of the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2017

1 Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the organisation's financial statements.

1.1 Legal form

The BGIPU is an unincorporated entity, acting as an autonomous body within Parliament and is an independent parliamentary association.

The Group is domiciled in the United Kingdom and the address of its registered office and principal place of business is the Palace of Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA. Details of the principal activity of the BGIPU are included in the Annual Governance Statement on page 1.

1.2 Basis of preparation

The BGIPU is not required by law to comply with the requirements of the Companies Act and generally accepted accounting principles. However, as explained in the Statement of Executive Committee's responsibilities, the Executive Committee has accepted that these financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and under the historical cost convention.

The preparation of the financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the accounting policies (see note 2).

The following accounting policies have been applied:

1.3 Fixed assets and depreciation

All assets over £100 are capitalised. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Office equipment	-	15% per annum (10% in the 7th year)
Computers and software	-	25% per annum

No depreciation is provided on paintings or the commemorative bell. There is no available market value but it is thought that the current market value would exceed the carrying amount.

1.4 Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

1.6 Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price.

1.7 Pension costs

The organisation makes payments to personal pension plans for the benefit of its employees.

Contributions payable to the schemes are charged against income in the period in which they fall due.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

1.8 Financial instruments

The Company only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable.

Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade and other payables or receivables, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration, expected to be paid or received. However if the arrangements of a short-term instrument constitute a financing transaction, like the payment of a trade debt deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate or in case of an outright short-term loan not at market rate or in case of an outright short-term loan not at market rate, the financial asset or liability is measured, initially, at the present value of the future cash flow discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument and subsequently at amortised cost.

1.9 Foreign currency translation

Functional and presentation currency

The company's functional and presentational currency is GBP.

Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the actual rate of exchange used when either converting currency, making payments by bank transfer or making payments by way of credit card. Any reimbursement to delegates or staff will be at either the actual rate suffered or up to 3% above the rate prevailing at the time of the transaction to account for standard bank and credit card charges. At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction.

1.10 Grant in Aid

Grant in aid is recognised as income in the financial statements in the period to which the grant relates.

Grant in aid for the year ended 31 March 2017 of £1,300,400 (2016: £1,285,000) has been provided by the House of Commons and the House of Lords; contributing 70% and 30% respectively.

1.11 Conference, delegation and all party group expenditure

Expenditure in respect of conferences, inward and outward delegations and seminars is charged against income in the period in which the event occurs.

1.12 Interest receivable

Interest earned on all bank accounts is recognised in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

1.13 Donations / Subscriptions received

On 1 February 2011, the Executive Committee voted to suspend the annual membership fees. At the AGM in November 2011, the BGIPU Rules were formally amended abolishing the requirement for membership fees. However, there would be no refunds of unnecessary payments, which will be treated as donations in the future.

2 Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

No significant judgements have had to be made by management in preparing these financial statements.

3 Staff costs

The total emoluments paid to employees during the year, including pension contributions are disclosed in the income and expenditure account. Staff costs include all independent consultancy fees.

The average number of employees of the BGIPU during the year was 9 (2016: 8).

Staff costs, including director's remuneration, were as follows:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Wages and salaries	325,410	306,562
Social security costs	33,876	32,552
Pension costs	44,252	40,388
Other costs	32,723	33,617
	436,261	413,119

5 Tangible fixed assets

	Paintings	Commemorative bell	Office equipment	Computers & software	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At beginning of year	3,183	890	2,113	24,148	30,334
Additions	-	-	-	1,633	1,633
Disposals	-	-		(2,414)	(2,414)
At end of year	3,183	890	2,113	23,367	29,553
Depreciation					
At beginning of year	-	-	1,592	19,767	21,359
Charge for year	-	-	279	2,562	2,814
Disposals	-	-		(2,414)	(2,414)
At end of year	-	-	1,871	19,915	21,786
Net book value					
At 31 March 2017	3,183	890	242	3,452	7,767
At 31 March 2016	3,183	890	521	4,381	8,975

6 Debtors: amounts receivable within one year

	2017	2016
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,308	5,610
Prepayments	315,178	282,835
Other debtors	2,988	4,425
	319,474	292,870

7 Cash at bank and in hand

	2017	2016
	£	£
Interest earning bank deposit accounts	430,290	367,009
Non-interest earning bank deposit account	10,000	10,000
Cash in hand	450	327
	<u>440,740</u>	<u>377,336</u>

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2017	2016
	£	£
Trade creditors	299	3,634
Accruals and prepaid income	27,484	44,442
Social security and other taxes	8,984	8,628
	<u>36,767</u>	<u>56,704</u>

9 Financial instruments

	2017	2016
Financial assets	£	£
Measured at fair value through profit or loss	<u>760,214</u>	<u>670,206</u>
Financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	<u>27,783</u>	<u>48,076</u>

9 Financial instruments (continued)

(i) Risk Management

The company's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, including foreign exchange risk:

Foreign exchange risk

The organisation operates internationally and is exposed to foreign exchange risk with respect to the Swiss Franc and various other currencies, depending on events taking place overseas. Market risk arising from movements in foreign exchange rates is identified and monitored.

(ii) Fair value

The company's financial assets and liabilities comprise debtors, creditors and cash at bank. The book

values and fair values of the company's financial assets and liabilities are identical and are disclosed on the balance sheet and within related notes.

10 Reserves

General fund

This reserve comprises all current and prior period retained surplus

	General Fund
	£
Balance at 31 March 2016	622,477
Deficit for the year	<u>108,737</u>
Balance at 31 March 2017	<u>731,214</u>

In accordance with HM Government accounting rules, the annual grant in aid income awarded to the organisation is not paid to the BGIPU until the funds are actually required to meet expenditure budgeted for the year. The BGIPU submits returns to the funding providers covering income and expenditure, cash position and adjusted reserves for the previous period and forecasts for the year, before quarterly instalments of grant in aid are agreed and paid. The funding provider advances cash to the organisation when it is required to meet expenditure.

The General Fund balance is carried forward into the next financial year and is unaffected by the change in funding arrangement of the grant in aid.

11 Pension commitments

Contributions payable by the company relating to defined contribution pension schemes for the year amounted to £44,252 (2016: £40,388). At the year end, £3,830 (2016: £3,474) remained unpaid.

12 Published financial statements

The approved financial statements will be made publicly available on the website of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at www.bgipu.org.

13 Related party transactions

During the year persons who were members of the Executive Committee at any time during the financial year incurred reimbursable expenditure while participating in delegations on behalf of the organisation totalling £31,491 (2016: £31,282). At the year end, £46 (2016: £1,738) was outstanding and is included within creditors in note 8.

During the year director's emoluments (including estimates towards bonus provisions) totalled £73,448 (2016: £74,054) and entity contributions to director's pension schemes totalled £10,489 (2016: £10,283). During the year retirement benefits were accruing to 1 director (2016: 1) in respect of defined contribution pension schemes. During the year the director incurred reimbursable expenditure while undertaking work on behalf of

the organisation totalling £1,701 (2016: £2,303). At the year end, £nil (2016: £305) was outstanding and is included within creditors in note 8.

14 Controlling party

The entity is under the control of the Executive Committee and the Director.

15 Donation to IPU Solidarity Fund

A 'one-off' donation of 30,000 Swiss Francs was made to the IPU Solidarity Fund, following approval by the Executive Committee in February 2017. This fund was recently established to enable countries that are not currently members of the IPU (and not previous members in default) to attend assemblies to assess whether they would like to join. No further such donations are planned.

IPU

HEADQUARTERS

Executive Committee of the IPU

The IPU Governing Council is the plenary policy-making body of the IPU. Oversight of the administration and advice to the Governing Council is provided by an Executive Committee composed as follows;

Members	Expiry of term
<i>President:</i>	
Ms G. Cuevas Barron	October 2020
<i>Members:</i>	
Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation)	October 2018
Mr. A. Abdel Aal (Egypt)	April 2021
Mr. K Jalali (Islamic Republic of Iran)	October 2019
Ms. Y. Ferrer Gómez (Cuba)	October 2020
Ms. M. Kiener-Nellen (Switzerland)	October 2021
Ms. F. Benbadis (Algeria)	October 2018
Mr. R. del Picchia (France)	October 2018
Ms. H. Haukeland Liadal (Norway)	October 2019
Ms. A. Habibou (Niger)	March 2019
Ms. A. Lins (Brazil)	October 2019
Mr. D. McGuinty (Canada)	October 2021
Mr. Nguyen Van Giau (Viet Nam)	October 2019
Ms. M.I. Oliveira Valente (Angola)	October 2019
Mr. S. Suzuki (Japan)	October 2018
Mr. K. M. Lusaka (Kenya)	October 2019
Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia) Ex Officio	March 2018
Ms. M. Osuru (Uganda) Ex Officio	March 2019

Liaison with the International Secretariat

The BGIPU Secretariat has maintained regular and constructive contact with the IPU Secretariat in Geneva on a wide range of issues on the IPU agenda. In addition three members of the IPU Secretariat visited the UK Parliament to learn about parliamentary procedures from 25 to 27 January. Two of the BGIPU Secretariat attended the Information Seminar at IPU HQ from 16 to 19 May along with other staff of national member parliament secretariats from around the world. Another BGIPU staff member visited IPU HQ from 29 to 30 May to learn more about the work of the Gender Team. Senator Cuevas Barron of Mexico visited the UK Parliament on 12 September to present her candidacy for the IPU Presidency.

At IPU Assemblies, Geneva-based IPU meetings and in our regular daily work, the British Group continues to enjoy excellent relations at all levels and maintains a strong record of cooperation with the international Secretariat. The contact details for the Secretary General of the IPU are:

Mr Martin Chungong
Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
5, Chemin Du Pommier
Case Postale 330
CH-1218 Le Grand Saconnex
Geneva
SWITZERLAND

Telephone: +41 22 919 41 50 Fax: +41 22 919 41 60

E-Mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org

Website: www.ipu.org

National Groups of the IPU

As of October 2017 there are 178 Members and 12 Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Afghanistan	Costa Rica	Iceland
Albania	Côte d'Ivoire	India
Algeria	Croatia	Indonesia
Andorra	Cuba	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Angola	Cyprus	Iraq
Argentina	Czech Republic	Ireland
Armenia	Democratic People's	Israel
Australia	Republic of Korea	Italy
Austria	Democratic Republic	Japan
Azerbaijan	of the Congo	Jordan
Bahrain	Denmark	Kazakhstan
Bangladesh	Djibouti	Kenya
Belarus	Dominican Republic	Kuwait
Belgium	Ecuador	Kyrgyzstan
Benin	Egypt	Lao People's Democratic
Bhutan	El Salvador	Republic
Bolivia	Equatorial Guinea	Latvia
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Estonia	Lebanon
Botswana	Ethiopia	Lesotho
Brazil	Fiji	Libya
Bulgaria	Finland	Liechtenstein
Burkina Faso	France	Lithuania
Burundi	Gabon	Luxembourg
Cambodia	Gambia	Madagascar
Cameroon	Georgia	Malawi
Canada	Germany	Malaysia
Cape Verde	Ghana	Maldives
Central African	Greece	Mali
Republic	Guatemala	Malta
Chad	Guinea	Marshall Islands
Chile	Guinea-Bissau	Mauritania
China	Guyana	Mauritius
Colombia	Haiti	Mexico
Comoros	Honduras	Micronesia (Federated
Congo	Hungary	States of)

Monaco	Slovenia
Mongolia	Somalia
Montenegro	South Africa
Morocco	South Sudan
Mozambique	Spain
Myanmar	Sri Lanka
Namibia	St Lucia
Nepal	Sudan
Netherlands	Suriname
New Zealand	Swaziland
Nicaragua	Sweden
Niger	Switzerland
Nigeria	Syrian Arab Republic
Norway	Tajikistan
Oman	Thailand
Pakistan	The former Yugoslav
Palau	Republic of Macedonia
Palestine	Timor-Leste
Panama	Togo
Papua New Guinea	Tonga
Paraguay	Trinidad and Tobago
Peru	Tunisia
Philippines	Turkey
Poland	Uganda
Portugal	Ukraine
Qatar	United Arab Emirates
Republic of Korea	United Kingdom
Republic of Moldova	United Republic of
Romania	Tanzania
Russian Federation	Turkmenistan
Rwanda	Tuvalu
Samoa	Uruguay
San Marino	Uzbekistan
Sao Tome and Principe	Vanuatu
Saudi Arabia	Venezuela
Senegal	Viet Nam
Serbia	Yemen
Seychelles	Zambia
Sierra Leone	Zimbabwe
Singapore	
Slovakia	

Associate Members

Andean Parliament

Arab Parliament

Central American Parliament

East African Legislative Assembly

European Parliament

Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union

Latin American Parliament

Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community

Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

**ALL-PARTY
PARLIAMENTARY
GROUPS**

Details of funding granted in support of All Party Parliamentary Group Activities in the period November 2016 to November 2017

Each year, BGIPU approves financial assistance to a range of All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) which apply for support. APPGs eligible for BGIPU support consists of informal cross party groupings of parliamentarians from both Houses with an interest in the affairs of a specific country, including exchanges with parliamentary counterparts in that country. Funding for this activity is included within grant in aid received from the two Houses.

The approved budget for assistance to APPGs in 2016-17 was £30,000. For the Annual Report, the period of focus is between Annual General Meetings, rather than the Financial Years. Detail of support given since November 2016 until time of writing follows:

British-Egypt APPG

Assistance totalling £154.05 was provided for a gifts during a visit from Egyptian Parliamentarians to the UK Parliament on 29 November 2016.

British-Ukraine APPG

Assistance totalling £64.85 was provided for a gift during the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of friendship groups in both parliaments in February 2017.

British-Danish APPG

Assistance totalling £160 was provided for a lunch in Parliament welcoming the Danish Ambassador to the UK organised by Lord Craigavon on 12 September 2017.

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE BRITISH GROUP IPU

	Position	Commenced
Mr Rick Nimmo	Director	May 2012
Ms Dominique Rees MBE	Deputy Director	March 1998
Ms Jackie Rhodes	Finance & Administration Manager	January 2010
Ms Gabriella Liberotti	International Project Manager	June 2008
Ms Anja Richter	International Project Manager	December 2014
Ms Emily Davies	International Project Manager	June 2015
Ms Lauren Tait	International Project Manager	September 2016
Ms Rhiannon Edwards	Executive Assistant	September 2016
Ms Alison MacDonald	Human Resources Consultant	July 2012

Contact details of the Secretariat of the British Group IPU

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