



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

2014

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The BGIPU Chairman, Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, addresses the 130th IPU Assembly in Geneva on 18 March 2014

ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP

Chair's Report



**Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
Chairman, BGIPU**

Reflecting back on an extremely productive year for BGIPU since my election as Chair last December, I would like to register my gratitude to those parliamentary colleagues who have served on the Executive Committee, in particular my fellow Officers of the Group. I also want to express appreciation to all those members who have supported our work by participating in and engaging with visiting delegations in the Palace of Westminster. I also acknowledge the very important contribution of members who have participated in our outward visits programme to counterpart parliaments, as members of UK delegations to Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assemblies or who have attended other inter-parliamentary meetings overseas.

I would also like to register BGIPU's warm appreciation to UK Ministers and Her Majesty's Government officials, most particularly in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), for meeting visiting delegations here in London and supporting our work overseas, particularly noting the invaluable support we receive from the FCO's Parliamentary Relations Department.

It is also important to recognise the key role played by the diplomatic corps in London and UK missions overseas. They have provided excellent support in facilitating our activities over the course of the year. Recognising the significant complexity of their tasks, I also wish to highlight the outstanding efforts of the BGIPU Secretariat, and in particular the Director, Rick Nimmo, for its role in advising and administering the work of the Group. Thank you all for the assistance provided to BGIPU.

In 2014 the Group has received delegations to the Palace of Westminster from Uruguay, Portugal, Sudan, Armenia and Romania. I should note in particular the success of the all-women delegation from Sudan which was the first time we have arranged an inward delegation with a specific gender focus, recognising the important

contribution women often play in addressing many of the most difficult post-conflict challenges.

In addition, the BGIPU hosted parliamentarians, officials and other interlocutors in short programmes arranged here in London from a wide array of countries, including Australia, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Tajikistan, Germany, Serbia and Kyrgyzstan, in addition to a working visit by senior officials from the IPU Secretariat in Geneva. In terms of BGIPU delegation travel overseas, we have sent UK parliamentary delegations to Armenia, Poland, Haiti, Georgia, Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Norway, Guatemala and Honduras. Reports of these activities are published on BGIPU's website which supplements this Annual Report.

In carrying out these bilateral activities, a key focus had been to provide a vehicle for exchange with our parliamentary counterparts, often comparing and contrasting our respective parliamentary systems and seeking to learn from each other's common experience as parliamentarians. We have also taken opportunities to advance parliamentary strengthening objectives in countries where the consolidation of democratic reforms continue to face significant challenges such as in Haiti and Guinea-Bissau.

I had the honour to lead UK delegations to the 130th and 131st IPU Assemblies in Geneva in March and October 2014. Through BGIPU participation in these Assemblies, we engaged with a broad range of national delegations from many of the IPU's 164 member parliaments, in debating global issues of common concern to us all. Substantive outcomes of these Assemblies included resolutions on the contributions of parliaments to the goal of a nuclear-free world, the protection of the rights of children, the need for risk-resilient development, and a reiteration of the high priority all parliament's attach to addressing violence against women and girls.

BGIPU delegates have played a leading role in ensuring the IPU retains a strong voice in calling for peaceful resolution of violent conflict worldwide, including with regard to Syria, Ukraine, the Middle East and Central African Republic and called for parliamentary action to address the threats of terrorism and extremism. The IPU also marked its 125th anniversary with a strong reaffirmation of the organisation's primary role providing a parliamentary dimension for international affairs in pursuit of peace, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The UK delegation to Assemblies continue to play a very prominent role in IPU Assemblies, including through Lord Judd's leadership of the Committee on Middle East Questions and Ann Clwyd's contribution as Vice-President on the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians which is a unique and influential body protecting the rights of parliamentarians worldwide. Robert Walter has also played a very important role as Vice-President of the IPU's Executive Committee where he has made important contributions on the IPU's future relationship with the United Nations and the overall administration and finances of the IPU. Mr Walter and I also represented BGIPU at the formal celebrations of the IPU's 125th anniversary in Geneva on 30 June where I highlighted the contributions UK parliamentarians have long played in the IPU since Sir William Randal Cremer MP founded the organisation with his French counterpart, Frederic Passy, in 1889. Looking to the future of the IPU, we paid tribute to the outgoing Secretary General Anders Johnsson and welcomed his successor, Martin Chungong. We also saw the election of the new IPU President, Mr Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP, for a three-year term at the 131st Assembly in October.

In the margins of Assemblies, BGIPU has also undertake bilateral meetings with around 20 different counterpart delegations to discuss matters of mutual interest, building relations, offering reassurances of the UK's firm commitments to partnership with countries like Afghanistan and Iraq and holding important exchanges with counterparts from Ukraine, Russia, Iran and other nations. Meetings have often been memorable for some frank discussions of areas of disagreement, to admiration for those, particularly women, who face significant pressures and challenges as they fulfil their democratic mandate.

Thematic discussions at IPU Assemblies during the year have focussed on important global issues such parliamentary perspectives on the post-2015 international development goals, objectives, arms control and disarmament issues, disaster risk reduction and the vulnerability of child migrants. There have also been deliberations on priority IPU priorities such as the need for women's political and economic empowerment, including through encouraging gender-sensitive parliaments, the importance of engagement with youth, and the key role parliaments can play in holding national governments accountable to their international commitments.

In providing continuing strong support to the IPU as the global body of parliaments, BGIPU demonstrates its' fundamental belief in the unique value of inter-parliamentary diplomacy and the priority we place on strengthening dialogue and understanding between parliamentarians throughout the world, including ensuring an active parliamentary voice in global affairs.

To this end, in addition to IPU Assemblies, we also sent UK delegations to a number of IPU-organised meetings, often convened in connection with major global meetings, such as for the Bali World Trade Organisation Ministerial, the Commission on the Status of Women in New York (CSW58), the Mexico Global Partnership Meeting on the post-2015 sustainable development goals, the World E-Parliament Conference, the 20th International AIDS Conference, the 9th Women Speaker's Meeting and the IPU's Parliamentary Hearing at the UN.

Delivering a programme of BGIPU events in the Palace of Westminster, we have provided further opportunities to meet foreign counterparts, attend informative events across a diverse set of international relations issues. These have focussed on the development agenda, disarmament matters and international gender issues, including supporting with the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA-UK), a parliamentary event in the margins of the then Foreign Secretary's landmark Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in July.

I would also like to highlight BGIPU's highly successful International Parliamentary Seminar on the Arms Trade Treaty convened in early November as a substantial achievement in sharing parliamentary perspectives on an issue which remains very close to my heart. The efforts of the BGIPU to work more closely with a wide range of All Party Parliamentary Groups, as well as with key external bodies including the FCO and other government and non-government bodies actively engaged in the UK's foreign relations, complements our collaborative partnerships with authorities of both Houses, CPA-UK and other inter-parliamentary groups.

As Chair, in close cooperation with the other Officers, and well-supported by an energetic and highly-skilled Secretariat, the aim of the Group is to offer members opportunities for engagement which are reflective of the main strategic foreign policy priorities for Britain in the world. To meet these objective, our programme of activities

must always remain flexible in responding to global developments, ensuring that BGIPU's work remain relevant and useful in an often dynamic and challenging global environment. I have also been grateful for the contributions of all members, particularly on the Executive Committee, in offering views and suggestions to ensure we can deliver a programme which is always relevant to your needs and reflective of your interests.

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
Chairman, British Group IPU
14 November 2014

Director's Report



Mr Rick Nimmo
Director, BGIPU

In outlining the key administrative and organisational issues addressed by the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) Secretariat in 2014, I am pleased to report that we have delivered a very active programme of inter-parliamentary activities, consolidated our administrative systems and finances, improved our operational processes and deepened cooperation with key stakeholders.

As guided by our three-year Strategic Business Plan, adopted by the Executive Committee in late 2012, the Secretariat has sought to improve its administrative, financial and human resources functions, building on work undertaken in recent years. This effort recognises the importance of ensuring we meet fully our core obligations and designated responsibilities under the Financial Memorandum, renewed with funding bodies in the House of Commons and the House of Lords in April 2014.

In support of our 2015-16 Request for Funding submitted in September 2014, I completed a detailed review of achievements against the strategic objectives outlined in the BGIPU Strategic Business Plan, noting the need to renew this Plan following the 2015 General Election and the subsequent reconstitution of our Executive Committee. This review highlighted key outcomes for the year including successful renegotiation of the Financial Memorandum to cover the three-year period until the end of the 2016/17 financial year which confirms the formal commitment by both Houses to provide appropriate funding support for the BGIPU for the future.

Close and constructive relations with our two funding bodies is also encouraged by our concerted efforts to better manage our financial reserves in line with expectations, confidence in the quality of our financial accounts and close attention to meeting the commitments undertaken in our Annual Governance Statement, including addressing financial, administration and representational risk factors highlighted in the BGIPU Risk Management Strategy. I am also pleased to confirm that we received another excellent external

audit outcome with no internal control deficiencies identified. This is a credit to the oversight of our Treasurer, Mr Fabian Hamilton MP, and the assiduous and skilled financial management efforts of BGIPU's Finance and Administration Manager, Ms Jackie Rhodes.

In meeting BGIPU's core human resources obligations, we took forward the plans approved by the Executive Committee in May 2014 to implement the House of Commons pay outcomes for all staff in line with House of Commons practice as required by our funding arrangements. This finalised the human resources process commenced a year earlier with the re-basing of staff bands, following the 2013 Job Evaluation and Grading Support (JEGS). This ensures our staff structure and remuneration is consistent and commensurate with broad benchmarks determined by House of Commons employment conditions. In addition to meeting that key requirement, it also ensures BGIPU can appropriately recognise and reward staff and ensure high levels of professionalism and effectiveness as well as improving our prospects for staff retention and recruitment over the longer term.

Completing a long-term project undertaken by BGIPU's contracted human resources expert, Ms Alison MacDonald, the Secretariat's administration and management activities are now contained in a clear and comprehensive Staff Handbook. This Handbook is aimed at ensuring staff can readily access detailed advice on their conditions of employment, staff facilities and other procedural guidance. In a parallel task, BGIPU also produced written guidance for members travelling on BGIPU delegations to ensure all members better understand the purposes and objectives of delegation activities and the core administrative, financial and accountability requirements applying to BGIPU's publicly-funded activities.

Consistent with Executive Committee expectations that BGIPU has effective mechanisms for communications and outreach, we continue to pay close attention to the quality and utility of the BGIPU website as the main conduit for reporting, expanding upon and complementary to the Annual Report itself. We have issued regular editions of our electronic newsletter, highlighting inter-parliamentary activities, events and, most importantly, the key outcomes and results of BGIPU work. We continue to experience increased levels of awareness among parliamentarians and external partners and our website has been praised by stakeholders and

counterpart parliaments as a high-quality demonstration of the effective use of web-based reporting.

Our very active use of social media, particularly in publishing activity updates and observations on Twitter, has also been particularly useful in spreading the key messages and outcomes of BGIPU's work well beyond the immediate scope of our mainstream UK parliamentary audience. As in previous years, we have seen greatly reduced publication and stationery costs and experienced solid growth in our overall UK and overseas readership, increasing awareness of BGIPU objectives and promoting our activities.

In terms of policy-related membership events, we have convened a number of thematic lectures and hosted policy events in 2014 including presentations on trade and development priorities, the soft power diplomacy work of the FCO and the British Council, international gender issues, including in support of the landmark Global Summit on Violence against Women in Conflict, the role of parliamentarians in implementing the National Action Plan on Women Peace & Security, and global arms control issues. A key purpose of these events has been to encourage debate among members and to build our cooperation with government and non-government partners outside Parliament. BGIPU also hosted a very successful International Parliamentary Seminar on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) from 3-5 November 2014 which provided a timely opportunity for discussions (given pending entry into force of the ATT). Such annual seminars provide a useful platform ensuring parliamentarians work together to hold governments to account in meeting international obligations.

We have continued to develop our membership outreach strategy to ensure we attract new membership applications as people enter Parliament through by-elections or peerage and we are preparing active effort to promote BGIPU membership in connection with the changes which will be brought about to the composition of the UK Parliament through the 2015 General Election. The BGIPU maintains continuing close engagement with other inter-parliamentary bodies, particularly the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, including hosting a joint diplomatic function for the State Opening of Parliament in June 2014. We also have strong engagement with a diverse range of country-based and thematic All Party Parliamentary Groups, including in support of inward and outward delegation visits, key policy events and in providing financial

support to facilitate exchanges between APPG and their respective parliamentary contacts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I offer my sincere thanks to all members of the Executive Committee for the guidance and support of the Secretariat in 2014. I am particularly grateful to the Officers of the BGIPU, especially our Chair, the Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, for his enthusiasm, guidance and leadership. In recognising this contribution, I would note the important role he played in highlighting the UK's historic contribution to the IPU at its 125th anniversary commemoration in Geneva earlier this year where he recalled the IPU's founding principles of pursuing peace through parliamentary dialogue and arbitration.

I would also like to recognise the vital role being played by the immediate past Chair, Mr Robert Walter MP, in providing highly effective leadership and guidance to the IPU as a whole, as Vice-President of the IPU Executive Committee. I also warmly acknowledge our outgoing Vice-President, Mr Stewart Jackson MP, who relinquishes this role at the 2014 AGM in accordance with term limits set out in the BGIPU Rules.

BGIPU also receives vital support from many other colleagues in both Houses of Parliament, at all levels. We value our close cooperation with the Overseas Offices of both Houses and I acknowledge our budget holders, Mr Simon Burton (and Mr Rhodri Walters CB, prior to his retirement) and Mr Crispin Poyser, who have provided excellent cooperation and much valued advice in supporting BGIPU's work throughout the year. In closing, I would like to place formally on record my appreciation for the important contribution made by Ms Stef Kenyon who recently departed the Secretariat after three highly productive years as one of our core team of International Project Managers.

Rick Nimmo
Director, British Group IPU
14 November 2014

Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union

Wednesday 4 December 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was held in the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House. The Honorary President, the Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Mr Speaker, was in the Chair.

Opening remarks

MR SPEAKER:

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for coming. I call this Annual General Meeting to order. I extend a very warm welcome to all colleagues present, including most certainly the noble Lord, Lord Judd, who is entering the room at this very moment.

I hope that you have had a chance to review the 2013 Annual Report, which was distributed in November. Hard copies have also been placed on your seats. Please note that there will be no requirement for an election ballot today, as the nominated Officers and Members of the Executive Committee are all standing unopposed for their positions. This matter will be dealt with under Item 8.

Apologies for absence

MR SPEAKER:

We move on to Item 2—apologies for absence. Do we have any apologies?

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

We have 31 apologies.

MR SPEAKER:

There are 31 apologies, but unless you strongly disagree, I do not think there is any necessity to read out the list of 31 names. I think we can agree that there is no such requirement.

Adoption of Minutes

MR SPEAKER:

We are now required to adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 5 December 2012. These are printed on pages 16 to 33 of the 2013 Annual Report. May I please have a proposer and seconder that the Minutes are adopted as a true record of the meeting? (Proposed by Rt Hon the Lord Dholakia and Seconded by Fabian Hamilton MP.)

Is that agreed? It is agreed.

Matters arising from the Minutes

MR SPEAKER:

Are there any matters arising from those Minutes? Does any colleague wish to raise anything as a result? Speak now or for ever hold your peace. Thank you; we will take them as not requiring anything to be further addressed.

Adoption of the 2013 Annual Report

MR SPEAKER:

I now invite Lynne Featherstone, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, to propose the adoption of the 2013 Annual Report. Colleagues, please give Lynne a warm welcome.

LYNNE FEATHERSTONE MP:

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was listening enviously about standing for re-election unopposed—and wishing.

I am very pleased to attend this Annual General Meeting of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. While the work of the BGIPU remains entirely independent of the Government, it is clearly complementary to UK development objectives. Voting is the single most popular act of political engagement on this planet. Almost every country in the world now has some form of Parliament, and there are more than 46,000 representatives in 190 countries.

On the surface, this is very positive, but the facts are that many of these Parliaments are very weak. As the Arab spring has highlighted, a number are struggling to support successful democratic transitions, and many others are dominated by powerful Executives, or simply lack the skills and tools needed to do their job. The UK Government believe that it is essential that Parliaments worldwide are able to do their job well. As the Prime Minister has said, “We... need to tackle the causes of poverty, not just its symptoms”, and that means supporting the golden thread of conditions that enable open economies and open societies to thrive. It requires people to have a voice so that they can take control of their own destiny and build a future free from poverty.

Effective Parliaments that represent citizens’ views and hold Governments to account are a key part of that, which is why my Department spends about £100 million a year to support parliamentary development in about 15 of our priority countries. It is why we have, for the first time, partnered with the FCO to provide multi-year funding to the Westminster Foundation for Democracy to support Parliaments in fragile states and emerging democracies to become more effective, accountable and representative. While we are delighted to provide such support, we know that much more needs to be done. The voluntary effort of organisations such as the BGIPU plays a critical role in ensuring that parliamentarians worldwide receive the support that they seek.

Looking through this year’s BGIPU Annual Report, I see many examples of this. For example, the inward visit of parliamentarians from Somalia has, I hope, gone some way to encouraging our Somali counterparts as they work hard to create an effective democratic system after years of conflict.

Personally, I am also delighted to see the excellent work that the BGIPU has done to promote women’s political empowerment and

participation. While the number of women in Parliaments has almost doubled since 1995, the figure remains a lowly 20.5%. Sometimes I feel like a broken record on this, but if Parliaments do not become more representative of their populations, they will struggle to promote stability and to build support for democracy. I cannot emphasise that too strongly. I just look at the gender balance in this room—I say no more. I therefore welcome the excellent work that the BGIPU has done in this area, and particularly its support for the IPU’s drive for gender-sensitive Parliaments, its work on the UN Commission on the Status of Women and its hosting of two of the first ever female members of Saudi Arabia’s Shura Council.

Those few examples, along with many others detailed in the Annual Report, serve to highlight the important role that the BGIPU plays in advancing our international development objectives, as well as its broader international relations mandate. I therefore have great pleasure in proposing the adoption of the 2013 Annual Report of the BGIPU.

MR SPEAKER:

Lynne, thank you very much indeed for that speech and your obvious commitment to the cause.

Colleagues, on your behalf, I would like to invite Gavin Shuker, shadow Minister for International Development, to second the adoption of the 2013 Annual Report.

GAVIN SHUKER MP:

Good afternoon everyone. It is a genuine pleasure to be on this panel and to have the honour of seconding the adoption of the Report.

It strikes me that we sit at quite a key moment—not just here in the UK, but globally. The forces that want us to disengage from complexity and reality, and from democratic processes, have always been there, but we sit in the midst of a generation that, at certain times, looks cynically at politics’ and Parliaments’ abilities to shape outcomes. That is why, as a new entrant to the shadow DFID team, I, along with my colleagues in the Lords and in the Commons, have been greatly appreciative of the work of the British Group in encouraging

us to step up to a greater measure of engagement around the world and in our own Parliament.

I had the pleasure back in May of helping to chair an event looking at a specific matter that perhaps illustrates the issue very well: child sexual exploitation and tourism. Many of the issues that we consider to be topical and important here in the UK have a wider remit more globally. At its best, what the British Group does is to bring people together to engage in deeply important issues.

It is important that, as parliamentarians, we have the confidence to reach out across not just party lines, but geographical ones. As Lynne said, the Annual Report is littered with examples of how the work of the British Group has facilitated parliamentarians in doing that.

Before seconding the motion, I might add just one thought about looking at what the British Group will do in the future. I have been struck by the depth of knowledge and wisdom evident in this fantastic Group in Parliament. The challenge is to engage parliamentarians of all stripes and to shout a bit louder—we need to get better at doing this—about the fantastic work that goes on here.

When you come into politics, you realise that there is no great global conspiracy; it is actually a deeply human process. It is about building individual relationships and seeing what is possible as a result. Of course, at its best, the work of the British Group facilitates those relationships not just here in Parliament, but further afield. It therefore gives me great pleasure—it is an honour—to second the adoption of this Report.

MR SPEAKER:

Similarly, Gavin, thank you for that speech and the spirit in which it was made.

The 2013 Annual Report has now been proposed and seconded. I hope that it will be agreed that we adopt the Report.

All those in favour please raise your hand.

Any against? No. Thank you.

By unanimity and acclamation, the Report is adopted.

Presentation of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2013

MR SPEAKER:

Mr Mike Gapes MP, Honorary Treasurer of the British Group of the IPU, will present the Financial Statements of the Group. Colleagues, before calling Mike, I should note that this will be his last report in this capacity, as he has reached the end of his tenure in this specific role. I am sure that you would want to join me in recording our thanks for Mike's excellent stewardship of the Group's finances over the past three years. I hope, in similar vein to the response that I offered to Lynne and Gavin, you would agree with me that he deserves our appreciation for a track record of consistent internationalism over a long period, within the British Group and more widely. With that acclamatory introduction, Mr Gapes.

MIKE GAPES MP:

Mr Speaker, thank you very much. Now comes the tedious part, but it has to be done, as it is very important.

As your Accounting Officer, it is my honour to present to you the Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement for the year ending on 31 March 2013. These are reproduced at pages 36 to 54 of our 2013 Annual Report.

The audit was again conducted by Reeves & Co. LLP. There have been no changes this year in the audit personnel, with the same audit senior, Kirsty McMeechan, conducting the detailed work on site. Peter Hudson, the audit partner, and Anne Carter, the audit manager, are both with us today. I thank them for their help over the past year.

On page 45 of the 2013 Annual Report, the auditors state that, in their opinion, the Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the state of the organisation's affairs as at 31 March 2013, and of its results for the year then ended, and that they have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice.

The auditors also express their opinion that the Annual Governance Statement is consistent with the financial statements, and the Annual Governance Statement replaces the former statement of internal control in accordance with best practice guidelines.

The Audit Committee met on 25 June 2013 to consider the report from our auditors and recommended that the Executive Committee approve the Financial Statements and the Chair and Treasurer sign them in due course. That was duly done at the Executive Committee meeting. The income and expenditure account appears on page 47.

Income increased overall from £384,334 to £1,269,376. This is because the Group received the maximum available grant in aid of £1,266,000, compared to the restricted £378,600 in the year ending 31 March 2012. Some grant was withheld in the second quarter, but this was reinstated in the last quarter. In future, quarterly instalments will be provided in unequal proportions to better reflect the uneven pattern of our cash flow. Bank interest fell from £5,175 in the previous year to £3,113, due to our lower cash reserves and lower interest rates.

I now turn to expenditure. Overall, this increased from £1,126,984 to £1,218,069. Subscription expenses have increased marginally from £476,469 in the previous year to £477,449 in the current year. The majority of this cost relates to our subscription to the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva. The subscription is paid in Swiss francs and paid for the whole calendar year. The total UK share in Swiss francs remained at CHF 688,000, the same as in 2012, but the exchange rate was slightly less favourable.

The costs of conferences, IPU seminars and outward delegations, taken together, increased from £192,999 to £255,755. Within this, main Assembly costs increased to £144,231 from £84,626 in the previous year, as there were two main IPU Assemblies—one in Quebec and one in Quito—fully within this financial year and another, in Kampala, that straddled the previous financial year end. The number of Assemblies is as in the previous year; however, holding the autumn Assembly in Canada was significantly more costly. We sent delegates to 15 smaller IPU meetings for a total cost of £30,092. Four outward delegations were undertaken during the financial year—unfortunately, two others had to be cancelled—at a

total cost of £81,432.

Four inward delegations and 10 smaller events that we class as “Days in Parliament”, together with a seminar on gender in politics jointly held with the CPA’s UK branch, were hosted at a total cost of £124,783. Funding was claimed by 10 all-party groups in relation to 10 events during the year, at a total cost of £17,264.

The cost of staff salaries and related expenses has increased marginally, from £304,770 to £309,388. This is mainly because a new Director, Rick, was recruited in May 2012, and a human resources consultant was contracted for one day a week from July 2012. Printing and stationery costs fell for the third successive year, as the newsletter is now circulated electronically and all reporting is published on our website.

Postage and telephone costs reduced again, due to increased use of electronic communications; also, the Secretariat is now on the parliamentary phone system and therefore being recharged only for international calls. Publishing and public relations costs increased, as costs for two new types of event—lunchtime lectures and the BGIPU week—are now categorised here, as well as the cost of a reception for the diplomatic community held jointly with the CPA on the State Opening of Parliament, an event that did not occur in the previous year as we had a long Session between Queen’s Speeches.

Audit fees increased slightly, due to inflation, and because Audit Committee members now require a representative of the auditors to attend both their half-yearly meetings. Insurance costs remained fairly static, while general hospitality costs decreased because the Christmas party was scaled back to a lunchtime event, and the previous year also included the costs of a retirement party. Sundry expenses, including bank charges and other office costs, have increased marginally. Only a small amount of giftware, such as the recently produced *The Palace of Westminster: Official Guide*, was purchased during the year as stock levels continue to be reduced. The aggregate effect is a small surplus for the year of £51,307.

The balance sheet on page 48 shows that net assets, which equate to reserves, have increased from £889,457 to £940,764, reflecting the small surplus. Fixed assets have increased from £7,136 to £12,755, mainly due to the capitalisation of the new website,

acquisition of a tablet computer, and replacement of one digital camera, two printers and two monitors.

Current assets have increased from £924,539 to £995,009. Most of that is due to the rise in the bank balances from £536,454 to £627,864. The debtors of £4,842 comprise mainly private hotel costs related to participation in the 128th Assembly, subsequently recovered against subsistence costs. The largest portion of the prepayment balance of £362,303 comprises nine months' worth of the 2013 annual IPU subscription fee. Creditors and accruals have increased from £42,218 to £67,000. Those mostly comprise invoices and expense claims related to the 128th Assembly and other events held in February and March 2013, consultancy fees related to recruitment of a new finance and administrative assistant, and a job evaluation review, plus pension contributions and payroll taxes for March.

There is not much more to go. As agreed by the Audit Committee, BGIPU is no longer relying on a small entity exemption, and the financial statements now include a cash flow statement for the first time. It highlights the increase in cash of £91,410, compared with a £709,544 reduction the previous year, when reserves were reduced, as well as the fact that there was a higher investment in fixed assets of £9,884, compared with £1,664 in the previous year. A full summary of the changes in fixed assets is shown in note 2 on page 52.

The Financial Memorandum, which we have to agree with the authorities of both Houses, came into effect on 1 April 2012 and was due for review and renegotiation before the end of 2013. Changes are expected to be minor and of a purely technical nature, with no significant change to the scale or scope of financial arrangements. The Annual Report, containing the Financial Statements, has been published on our website for the second year running.

It has been a great pleasure to serve as the Treasurer for the past three years. I want particularly to thank the staff of the IPU, and I would like to single out Jackie Rhodes for all the excellent work she has done in such a competent and efficient way throughout that period.

MR SPEAKER:

Thank you very much indeed, Mike. In view of the comprehensive scope of your report, from which you could not be accused of excluding any matter that might be of material relevance, I hope that colleagues will not feel it necessary to ask questions. I assume that Mike is buttressed in his approach by his experience as a former international secretary of his party. No doubt that attention to matters of detail, following in the footsteps of Denis Healey, was imperative. I want to thank you, Mike, because I get the very distinct sense that colleagues are with me on this. Your interest in the affairs of this Group over a long period is well known and hugely appreciated by both the Group and the House of Commons.

Reappointment of Auditors

MR SPEAKER:

We now have to appoint auditors for the current year. Do we have a proposal that our current auditors, Reeves & Co., be reappointed? May I have a proposer and a seconder for that proposition? (Proposed by Lord Kilclooney and Seconded by Stewart Jackson MP.)

All those in favour please raise your hand.

Any against? No, so it is carried unanimously. Reeves & Co. are appointed as the Group's auditors for the current year.

Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for the period 2013-14

MR SPEAKER:

I have to announce that both Robert Walter MP and Ann Clwyd MP have reached the stipulated limits of office in their current roles as Chairman and Vice-Chair respectively. I am sure that all members would want us to record our thanks for their service as Officers of the Group and to express deep appreciation for their leadership in recent years. It is absolutely true of both of them that, in the work of the Group and in the discussion of international matters more widely in the House, they have offered us leadership. That is appreciated.

The outgoing Chairman will be invited to speak later in the proceedings and, I note, both will continue—this is no surprise—to play prominent roles in IPU Assemblies, Bob having been recently elected a member of the IPU Executive Committee, and Ann continuing her vitally important work as a member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. Perhaps I can have a display of acclamation for their efforts.

As I announced at the beginning of the meeting, all the Officers and Executive Committee Members who are standing for election are unopposed. The names have already been circulated to members in the letter dated 29 November 2013, copies of which are available today if you wish to consult them. If there are no objections, I hereby declare that they are duly elected with effect from the close of this Annual General Meeting. The list of new Officers and Executive Committee members will be placed for the record in the IPU Room, the No Lobby and on the Group's website following this meeting.

Banking matters

MR SPEAKER:

To meet banking requirements, I move that the authorised signatories and the signing rules in the bank mandate for the BGIPU accounts be changed to reflect the selection of new BGIPU Officers and the changes to the job titles of continuing signatories, and that the mandate with RBS continues as amended. May I please have a proposer and a seconder for that little group of propositions? (Proposed by Mark Hendrick MP and Seconded by John Whittingdale MP.)

All those in favour please raise your hand.

Any against? No, so it is unanimously agreed.

Any other business

MR SPEAKER:

Colleagues, is there any other business? No. I would like to note in passing how good it is to see John Austin here, not for the first time since he left the House. I thank you, John, for the continuation of the internationalism for which you were well known when you

were in the House, and for showing your support again.

Speech by Robert Walter MP, Chairman of the BGIPU

MR SPEAKER:

I would now like to invite the outgoing Chair of the BGIPU, Mr Robert Walter MP, to take the floor.

ROBERT WALTER MP:

Mr Speaker, as you rightly said, this is my last official function as Chairman of the British Group of the IPU, so I start by thanking you for all your support—for me and for the Group—over the past three years. It has been very welcome, and I thank you most sincerely for it.

I thank everyone for coming here this afternoon. I am delighted to reflect on another successful year for the Group. I thank all my parliamentary colleagues for the work that they have done on the Executive Committee. It is not a particularly onerous task, but it does require turning up every couple of months to deliberate about our programme and finances, and to ensure that the Group keeps moving forward. I also congratulate our staff, but I want to single out one person for congratulations: Dominique Rees MBE. She received her recognition in the Queen's birthday honours list. Dominique, thank you very much indeed. I pay special tribute to the staff of the BGIPU Secretariat, who have continued to do a fantastic job of promoting the activities of the Group, juggling numerous projects and, importantly, getting us all organised, which I know is not always easy.

Since the previous AGM, we have delivered yet another dynamic programme that has brought us together with numerous parliamentarians from all over the world. We have received delegations from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Bolivia and Somalia, to name but a few. The landmark visit of the Speaker of the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia and his delegation, which included two of that country's newly appointed female representatives, was a notable highlight, as was hosting our counterparts from Somalia, which Lynne Featherstone mentioned. They visited the UK at a time of considerable change, following years of violent conflict and

upheaval in that country.

In turn, we dispatched our own delegations to a diverse range of countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and, most recently, Argentina and Ethiopia. I had the honour of leading the UK delegation to the 128th IPU Assembly in Quito in March this year, and our Vice-Chair, Ann Clwyd, led our delegation to the 129th Assembly in Geneva in October. In both Assemblies, we debated issues of global concern and delivered substantive resolutions on the humanitarian and security implications of developments in Syria, and the role of Parliaments in supervising the destruction of chemical weapons and the ban on their use.

If I can borrow a phrase from a former Foreign Secretary, I think the United Kingdom delegation at these events very much punches above its weight. We have a considerable impact on deliberations, even if in Quito, as some of my colleagues will remember, that meant me having a virtual stand-up row with the President of the Assembly, who was the Speaker of the Ecuadorian Parliament. He decided he would change the agenda and the Standing Orders to suit his own political agenda, but we won in the end.

As always, those delegations and the things that we have been doing have continued our participation in thematic discussions on salient global issues in a variety of forums. We have aimed for those to be as topical as possible and responsive to current developments, whether that is the shape of the post-2015 development goals or the humanitarian situation in Syria. We hosted a very successful drugs policy reform seminar here in London in October with participants from more than 30 Parliaments. All credit to the staff and the Secretariat for putting that seminar together.

We have explored so many different subjects that there is not time to mention them all. Full details are on the website, as they say these days, and also in our Annual Report, and I commend you to have a look.

As this is my final year and my final speech as Chairman, I would like to look to the future. I thank and congratulate Alistair Burt, my successor. Alistair is known to you all as a distinguished and senior Member of the House of Commons. He was a Minister in John Major's Government, and for the past three and a half years, he has

been an exemplary Foreign Office Minister. Who could have predicted the Arab spring? Maybe he caused it—I do not know. As Minister for the Middle East, Alistair has had the most challenging role in the Government. It must at times have seemed like a rollercoaster ride, but I know he has enjoyed it and I hope that he will equally enjoy the challenges of being the BGIPU Chairman over the coming years.

If I am to reflect on some of my experiences at the helm over the past three years, it is difficult to single out one event, meeting or moment that stands above the rest as an example of the growing importance of parliamentary diplomacy. What I love about our work is that, ultimately, when all is said and done, and after all the formalities are stripped down, you are left with a human experience—people coming together in a shared spirit of dialogue. Parliamentarians with different backgrounds and political values meet with open minds. In some cases we have contrasting outlooks and there is no shortage of disagreement, but what unites us is our desire to make connections, to improve our mutual understanding and to cultivate the common ground needed to secure our shared goals.

That was strongly felt during our recent visit to Argentina, a country with which we have well-known differences. However, while we were there, we identified many common interests that gave us a broad basis for co-operation on which we can—and, I believe, must—build. That did not mean burying our differences. On the contrary, by openly acknowledging them, we found ourselves in a better position to rise above the limitations created by a single issue of disagreement.

That brings me to my final thought on the future and importance of parliamentary diplomacy. It is still a relatively young field, but I believe we are growing in influence and impact. That the UK Parliament is regarded as having played a pivotal role in shaping the international community's response to the recent use of chemical weapons in Syria is, in my view, testament to the vital contribution parliamentarians can make to matters of grave international importance. We need to take it further. There is no more important time for the United Kingdom, as a founding member, to play an influential role in the IPU.

Although I am sad to be ending my tenure, you have not got rid of me. I am excited and honoured to be starting my new role on the International Executive Committee of the IPU. I look forward

to continuing my close partnership with the BGIPU and to working with the new Chairman and you all to fly the United Kingdom flag for parliamentary diplomacy as we build on our successes and prepare for the challenges ahead.

With your agreement, Mr Speaker, I would like to invite Alistair Burt to say a few words. Mr Chairman, the floor is yours.

ALISTAIR BURT MP:

Mr Speaker, colleagues, thank you very much for the honour you have done me by suggesting that this is something I should do and then electing me as Chairman of the BGIPU. I take it as a great compliment and I am very much looking forward to it.

It is rather nice to be able to talk about doing something new. I have had six weeks of farewell speeches in all sorts of different places, so it is nice to be turning a corner. I have no doubt that my experiences in the past three and a half years, as well as in my 20-odd years as a parliamentarian—I have been on a number of visits with colleagues stretching right back to the early 1980s, before the fall of the Berlin wall; I go back that long!—will carry through into what I am due to do now. I feel a strong sense that this is a Group that knows what it is doing. It is confident about the challenges that it has already taken on, but it is looking to do new things as well. I hope that I will be able to keep the very best of what we have done and to be open to new challenges as they come along.

I have been deeply impressed—more than I could have imagined—over the past three and a half years by just how the United Kingdom is seen by so many and how our Parliament is seen. Of course you have a vague sense of this—you have it better than most Members of Parliament, as you travel abroad more than most—but you only have to be a Minister in the Foreign Office to recognise that how we are seen is something rather special. Whatever the justification and whatever the history may be, it is in fact true. They look to parliamentarians and to Parliament, especially now with so many emerging democracies in new places, to give them that extra confidence about how they might take on the job. We never go with a sense that there is an automatic blueprint that everyone should follow. All we have is experience and advice to offer if people want

to take it. But my goodness, how keen they are to work with us as parliamentarians and to work with the officials in Parliament. They recognise the value of independent officials to give their Parliament a steer. Their appreciation of our recognition of them is also absolutely tangible. I will be taking all that with me.

I am very impressed by what people have said about the staff and those who work with us. I popped into the office yesterday to see their light and airy skyscraper office in Little College Street. I had a chance to get to know them a little bit and see a little bit of them. I am very conscious of the honour of taking on this role and I am looking forward to it enormously. I look forward to working with the new Executive and I am very much depending on the experience of colleagues of what they have done in the past. Thank you very much. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

MR SPEAKER:

Alistair, thank you very much. We all eagerly look forward to your chairmanship with great hope for the period ahead.

May I say, colleagues, that I think I can underline and reinforce the truth of what Alistair Burt has just said about the way in which our democracy, our Parliament, and indeed more widely our political institutions, are viewed elsewhere in the world? It is something of an antidote to some of the more negative and pejorative commentary that is repeated on a regular basis in the UK. Certainly I go abroad a certain amount, usually on bilateral visits to meet with Speaker counterparts in Europe, the Commonwealth and elsewhere. However odd or inexplicable some of the cynics might think it, the reality is that elsewhere in the world, for all our imperfections and the fact that there is much progress still to be made and a lot of work for us to do, we are esteemed. This Parliament is respected by others elsewhere and in many cases they want to learn from us, and indeed to imitate or ape our own practices.

In a departure from the norm whereby the Speaker tends to travel with a tiny staff and is pretty much, in political terms, on his own, I led a delegation in the summer to Burma with Malcolm Bruce, our esteemed head of the delegation from the parties, if you will, supported by Valerie Vaz, who is here as well, and Fiona Bruce

from the Conservative Benches. So there was me, Malcolm—the Chair of the International Development Committee, and the leader of the political-party side of the delegation—as a Liberal, and a Conservative and a Labour Member, and the Burmese were seriously interested in hearing our advice. They are getting some benefit in terms of capacity building from what we are now doing with them as a follow up. We are doing all sorts of things.

Closure of meeting

MR SPEAKER:

We can hear the Division bell. I know I don't have to vote, but you do, so unless there are any other matters that you wish to raise, having come to the end of the agenda, I declare this meeting closed, and your opportunity to vote open.

Officers and Executive Committee

Following the Annual General Meeting held on **Wednesday 4 December 2013**, 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 Baroness D'Souza (The Lord Speaker)

BGIPU President

Rt Hon David Cameron MP (The Prime Minister)

BGIPU Vice-Presidents:

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Rt Hon William Hague MP
Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP
Rt Hon Justine Greening MP
Rt Hon the Baroness Boothroyd PC OM
Rt Hon the Lord Martin of Springburn
Rt Hon the Baroness Hayman
Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP
Rt Hon the Lord Hurd of Westwell CH CBE
Rt Hon the Lord Carrington KG GCMG CH MC DL
Rt Hon the Lord Howe of Aberavon Kt CH QC
Rt Hon the Lord Owen CH
Rt Hon Jack Straw MP
Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP
Rt Hon Hillary Benn MP
Ivan Lewis MP

Meetings of the Executive Committee

Since the last Annual General Meeting on 4 December 2013, the Executive Committee met on Tuesday 22 January, Monday 11 March, Tuesday 6 May, Tuesday 15 July and Tuesday 21 October.

Officers & Executive Committee 2013 - 2014

Chair:

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Vice-Chairs:

Stewart Jackson MP

Mike Gapes MP

Treasurer:

Fabian Hamilton MP

Executive Committee:

Conservative Party

Dr Therese Coffey MP*
Gareth Johnson MP
Ian Liddell-Grainger MP
Tim Loughton MP
Mark Menzies MP
Andrew Rosindell MP
Rt Hon Sir John Stanley MP
Robert Walter MP*
John Whittingdale OBE MP
The Baroness Hooper CMG
Rt Hon the Lord Jopling DL
The Lord McColl of Dulwich CBE

Liberal Democrat Party

Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP
Rt Hon the Lord Dholakia OBE
DL

Labour Party

Dave Anderson MP
Hugh Bayley MP
Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP
Jeremy Corbyn MP
Ann McKeichin MP
Meg Munn MP*
John Robertson MP
Rt Hon the Lord Anderson of
Swansea
The Lord Dubs

Minority Party

Ian Paisley MP

Cross Bench

The Earl of Sandwich
The Viscount Montgomery of
Alamein CMG CBE*

* Denotes that Member was co-opted following the AGM 2013

Membership of the British Group

As of October 2014 there were 785 Members of the British Group, comprising 307 Members of the House of Commons, 320 Members of the House of Lords, 156 Associate Members and 2 Honorary Members.

**REPORT OF THE
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS,
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND STATEMENT OF
INTERNAL CONTROL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

Year ended 31 March 2014

British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Reeves & Co 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 association¹ 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. 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 Chairman, two 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

¹ Most small voluntary organisations and community groups are unincorporated associations. "Unincorporated" means not a company. An unincorporated association has been defined as: "two or more persons bound together for common purposes, not being business purposes, by mutual undertakings, each having mutual duties and obligations, in an organisation which has rules which identify in whom control of it and its funds rests and on what terms and which can be joined or left at will." *Conservative and Unionist Central Office v Burrell, 1982*

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 signed on 31 March 2014 providing the basis for the continued financial support of BGIPU by both Houses of Parliament. This was negotiated, with minor updates, drawing on past memoranda agreed in 2009 and 2012 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.

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, the BGIPU produces an Annual Report in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

Work of the Executive Committee

The BGIPU Executive Committee has met on five occasions during the 2013-14 Financial Year. It convened on Tuesday 14 May 2013, Tuesday 16 July 2013, Tuesday 22 October 2013, Wednesday 22 January 2014 and Tuesday 11 March 2014. The Audit Committee was convened on Tuesday 25 June 2013 and Wednesday 26 February 2014. The BGIPU Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 4 December 2013.

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 its planning and implementation procedures. Consistent with the requirements of the FM, the Director submitted to funding bodies an annual review of the Executive Committee 3-year Strategic Business Plan adopted in 2012 and submitted detailed forward planning budgets for the next three financial years in support of BGIPU's 2014/15 Request for Funding. A detailed Forward Programme drawing on the multi-year business plan was approved by the Executive Committee as the basis for targeted inter-parliamentary exchanges and international relations work.

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 sought 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. During the period, BGIPU staff also participated in a comprehensive review of policies, practices and work procedures to produce a revised Staff Handbook which is undergoing a trial phase prior to completion.

Under the guidance of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat has continued to enhance reporting through its website, in addition to using social media and electronic newsletters to make the

Group's work more accessible and its promotional activities more 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, additional financial management and budget training, development of international relations policy skills, support for specialised language training and specialised parliamentary-related training, including a field visit to the Welsh Assembly.

Risks

The mechanisms and procedures of the BGIPU 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 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, including 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 representatives and 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 February 2014). The Director has also undertaken specialist Risk Management training 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.

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. This has also helped address financial risks related to fraud or error in having in ensuring enhanced scrutiny of expenditure and accounts. Compliance risks, including the response to exchanges with HMRC on the taxation status of the BGIPU, were addressed 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 October 2012 a multi-year Strategic Business Plan, governing the period 2013/14 to 2015/16. This mechanism allows the Group to be in a stronger position to assess its effectiveness with key objectives, which are now closely defined, and expected outcomes clearly identified. 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 places at risk the BGIPU's ability to meet its key objectives. 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 FCO and other relevant 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 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 appropriateness of the Group's inter-parliamentary activities and the effective use of 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 satisfactory level.

(Signed)
F Hamilton MP
Honorary Treasurer
Date: 15 July 2014

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 2014 which are intended by them to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and of the surplus or deficit 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 2014 set out on the following pages, which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared for the reasons and on the basis set out in note 1 to the financial statements.

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

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).

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.

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 2014 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)

Reeves & Co LLP

Statutory Auditors & Chartered
Accountants

Third Floor

24 Chiswell Street

London

EC1Y 4YX

Date: 17 July 2014

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Note	2014 £	2013 £
Income			
Grant in aid	1	1,139,400	1,266,000
Donations/ Subscriptions received from members	1	137	211
Interest receivable	1	910	3,113
Other income		530	52
		<u>1,140,977</u>	<u>1,269,376</u>
Expenditure			
Subscriptions		450,521	477,449
Conferences, IPU seminars and outward delegations		179,401	255,755
Inward delegations, BGIPU seminars and days in Parliament		124,179	124,783
All party groups		23,263	17,264
Salaries, national insurance and other staff costs	7	406,838	309,388
Printing, stationery and publications		3,727	4,311
Postage and telephone		482	487
Publishing and public relations		6,376	8,220
Audit fee for the audit of these financial statements		6,940	6,660
Insurance		5,187	5,172
General hospitality		790	473
Legal fees		540	-
Sundry expenses		4,804	3,842
Depreciation of fixed assets	2	3,396	4,200
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	2	-	65
		<u>1,216,444</u>	<u>1,218,069</u>
(Deficit)/ Surplus for the year	5	<u>(75,467)</u>	<u>51,307</u>

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

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those passing through the income and expenditure account.

Notes 1 to 11 form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheet
at 31 March 2014

	Note	2014		2013	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	2		11,984		12,755
Current assets					
Debtors		4,311		4,842	
Prepayments and accrued income		320,337		362,303	
Cash at bank and in hand	3	<u>593,505</u>		<u>627,864</u>	
			918,153		995,009
Current liabilities					
Creditors	4	<u>(64,840)</u>		<u>(67,000)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>853,313</u>		<u>928,009</u>
Net assets			<u>865,297</u>		<u>940,764</u>
Financed by:					
General fund	5		<u>865,297</u>		<u>940,764</u>
			<u>865,297</u>		<u>940,764</u>

Notes 1 to 11 form part of the financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the undersigned and authorised for issue on 15 July 2014.

(Signed)
F Hamilton MP
Honorary Treasurer

(Signed)
Rt Hon A Burt MP
Chairman

**Cash flow statement
at 31 March 2014**

	Note	2014	2013
		£	£
Net cash flow from operating activities	8	(32,644)	98,181
Returns on investments	9	910	3,113
Capital expenditure	9	(2,625)	(9,884)
(Decrease)/Increase in cash in the year		<u>(34,359)</u>	<u>91,410</u>

**Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds at
31 March 2014**

	Note	2014	2013
		£	£
(Decrease)/Increase in cash in the year		(34,359)	91,410
Movement in net funds in the year		<u>(34,359)</u>	<u>91,410</u>
Net funds at 1 April 2013		<u>627,864</u>	<u>536,454</u>
Net funds at 31 March 2014	10	<u>593,505</u>	<u>627,864</u>

Notes 1 to 11 form part of the financial statements.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

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 Basis of preparation

The British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union acts as an autonomous body within Parliament and is an independent parliamentary association. As such it 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 UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out below and historical cost accounting rules.

1.2 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.

1.3 Pension costs

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

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

1.4 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 2014 of £1,139,400 (2013: £1,266,000) has been provided by the House of Commons and the House of Lords; contributing 70% and 30% respectively.

1.5 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.

1.6 Interest

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

1.7 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 Tangible fixed assets

	Paintings	Commemorative bell	Office equipment	Computers & software	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At beginning of year	3,183	890	2,413	22,618	29,104
Additions	-	-	-	2,625	2,625
Disposals	-	-	-	(3,122)	(3,122)
At end of year	3,183	890	2,413	22,121	28,607
Depreciation					
At beginning of year	-	-	953	15,396	16,349
Disposals	-	-	317	3,079	3,396
Charge for year	-	-	-	(3,122)	(3,122)
At end of year	-	-	1,270	15,353	16,623
Net book value					
At 31 March 2014	3,183	890	1,143	6,768	11,984
At 31 March 2013	3,183	890	1,460	7,222	12,755

3 Cash at bank and in hand

	2014	2013
	£	£
Interest earning bank deposit accounts	583,059	617,206
Non-interest earning bank deposit accounts	9,970	10,230
Cash in hand	476	428
	593,505	627,864

4 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2014	2013
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,404	5,319
Accruals	49,719	54,522
Social security and other taxes	8,717	7,159
	64,840	67,000

5 General fund

General Fund

	£
Balance at 31 March 2013	940,764
Deficit for the year	<u>(75,467)</u>
Balance at 31 March 2014	<u>865,297</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 declares to the funding provider surplus funds from the previous year before grant in aid is 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.

6 Tax status

The BGIPU acts as an autonomous body within Parliament and as such is treated as an independent parliamentary association and accordingly is not chargeable to tax.

7 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 8 (2013: 7).

8 Net cash flow from operating activities

	2014	2013
	£	£
(Deficit)/Surplus	(75,467)	51,307
Depreciation on tangible fixed assets	3,396	4,200
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	65
Interest received	(910)	(3,113)
Decrease in debtors and prepayments	42,497	20,940
(Decrease)/ Increase in creditors and accruals	(2,160)	24,782
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	<u>(32,644)</u>	<u>98,181</u>

9 Analysis of cash flows for the adings netted in cash flow statement

	2014	2013
	£	£
Return on investments		
Interest received	910	3,113
	2014	2013
	£	£
Capital expenditure		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(2,625)	(9,884)

10 Analysis of changes in net debt

	1 April 2013	Cash flow	31 March 2014
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>627,864</u>	<u>(34,359)</u>	<u>593,505</u>

11 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.

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>	
Mr S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh)	October 2017
<i>Vice President of the Executive Committee:</i>	
Mr F.M. Drilon (Philippines)	October 2015
<i>IPU Vice-Presidents:</i>	
Mr R.M.Kh. Al Shariqi (United Arab Emirates)	April 2017
Ms F. Diendere Diallo (Burkina Faso)	October 2015
Mr V. Senko (Belarus)	October 2017
Mr D. Vivas (Venezuela)	October 2016
Mr R. Walter (United Kingdom)	October 2017
<i>Members:</i>	
Mr R. del Picchia (France)	October 2018
Mr K. Dijkhoff (Netherlands)	October 2017
Ms Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria)	October 2018
Ms R. Kadaga (Uganda)	October 2015
Mr N. Lammert (Germany)	October 2015
Ms M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia)	March 2016
Ms N. Motsamai (Lesotho)	October 2015
Ms I. Passada (Uruguay)	October 2015
Mr M.R. Rabbani (Pakistan)	October 2015
Mr M. Uesugi (Japan)	October 2018

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, the BGIPU Secretariat hosted a working visit of IPU Secretariat staff in London during January 2014 and have hosted two other staff member on separate visits.

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 has maintained 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 2013 there are 166 Members and 10 Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

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

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

Associate Members

Andean Parliament

Central American Parliament

East African Legislative Assembly

European Parliament

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

Latin American Parliament

Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States

Parliament of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Arab Parliament

**ALL-PARTY
PARLIAMENTARY
GROUPS**

Details of funding granted in support of All Party Parliamentary Group Activities in the period December 2013 to November 2014

Each year, BGIPU approves financial assistance to a range of All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) which apply for support. APPG 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 current maximum is £5,000 in total grants per APPG per financial year.

The approved budget for assistance to APPGs in 2013-14 was £30,000. For the Annual Report, the period of interest is between Annual General Meetings, rather than the Financial Years. Detail of support given since December 2013 until time of writing follows:

British-Danish APPG

Assistance totalling £130 was provided for a lunch in Parliament organised by Lord Craigavon welcoming the new Danish Ambassador to the UK on 12th December 2013.

APPG on Iran

Assistance totalling £5,000 was provided in support of an outward delegation of four parliamentarians led by Rt Hon Jack Straw MP and Ben Wallace MP (as Joint Chairs of the APPG) to visit Iran from 6-10 January 2014. A full report is published on the BGIPU website.

British-Slovenia APPG

Assistance totalling £1590.86 was provided for an outward delegation of four parliamentarians led by APPG Chair Neil Parish MP from 28–30 May 2014 to visit the Republic of Slovenia. A full report is published on the BGIPU website.

APPG for Macedonia

Assistance totalling £4528.45 was provided in support of an outward delegation of four parliamentarians led by APPG Chair, Karen Lumley MP from 24- 27 June 2014. A full report is published on the BGIPU website.

British-Latvian APPG

Assistance totalling £3,000 was committed in support of an outward delegation of six parliamentarians led by APPG Chair Christopher Pincher MP although the visit has been deferred to a date yet to be confirmed due to parliamentary elections in October in Latvia.

APPG for the Republic of Sudan and South Sudan

Assistance totalling £5000 was committed in support of an outward delegation of three parliamentarians in November 2014. A report on this visit is pending.

APPG for Turkey

Assistance totalling £220.30 was provided for a lunch in Parliament organised by the APPG Chair Fabian Hamilton MP for the departing Turkish Ambassador on 18 June 2014.

British-Kyrgyzstan APPG

Assistance totalling £5000 was committed in support of an outward delegation of two parliamentarians led by APPG Chair John Mann MP in September 2014. A report on this visit is pending.

British-Tajikistan APPG

Assistance totalling £5000 was committed in support of an outward delegation of two parliamentarians in October 2014. A report on this visit is pending.

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 Charlotte Holloway	International Project Manager	August 2009
Ms Stephanie Kenyon	International Project Manager	August 2011
Ms Sophia Ostler	International Project Manager	August 2011
Ms Alison MacDonald	Human Resources Consultant	July 2012
Ms Moyosoré Shodipo	Finance & Administrative Assistant	March 2013

Contact details of the Secretariat of the British Group IPU

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