



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION
2022

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BGIPU Chair, Harriett Baldwin MP with members of the Ukraine Delegation at the 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali, October 2022.

ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP

Chair's Report



Harriett Baldwin
MP

Chair, BGIPU

As my time as BGIPU Chair draws to a close, I am pleased to have this last opportunity to report to you on BGIPU activities for the year since our Annual General Meeting on 8 December 2021. After an initial two-year period where travel was not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting health restrictions applied globally, I am delighted that in 2022 we have been able to revert to a very active programme of conferences, visits and other exchanges more in keeping with usual levels of BGIPU activity and a great advance on the zoom calls of the past few years.

Looking back on a very productive, albeit atypical term as Chair, I express my sincere gratitude to all members of the Executive Committee and our broader membership in both Houses for the excellent support they have provided me in often difficult times. Their unswerving commitment to inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation was fundamental in ensuring BGIPU could adapt quickly and continue to undertake as many activities as possible, despite the obstacles prevailing across the globe for much of 2020 and 2021, with 2022 finally providing us with a chance to at last return to almost full operational status. I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to lead BGIPU delegations on conferences and bilateral visits this year, in stark contrast to my first two years as Chair where I set the record for the most untravelled BGIPU Chair in history. Indeed, I didn't physically leave UK shores as Chair until some 21 months into my tenure (despite many dozens of detailed exchanges with counterparts all over the world – all of them virtual at the end of a webcam!!).

In a year in which we have focused on ramping up activity following a long pause in travel, BGIPU resumed hosting inter-parliamentary delegation visits to the United Kingdom welcoming counterparts from

France, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Ukraine and Madagascar on bilateral visits since travel restrictions were eased in February, with some more inward delegations in the pipeline in the months ahead. In terms of our own overseas delegations, after most global travel restrictions eased in May, we have sent delegations to Greece, Gabon and Finland and I particularly appreciated the opportunity to personally lead delegations to Korea and Kosovo. A visit to Mexico in September was also deferred following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September when BGIPU observed the period of national mourning and many counterparts, including the IPU President and Secretary General, sent their condolences.

Alongside our formal inward programme, BGIPU also hosted or facilitated visits to the UK Parliament by leaders, parliamentarians, officials and other contacts from a wide array of countries for shorter visits, including from Mexico (twice), Ukraine (twice), Israel, Vietnam, Bolivia, Argentina and Belgium. There will be a range of other bilateral outward visits before the end of the financial year which will ensure BGIPU definitely exceeds its targets of six inward and six outward visits having now resumed its full scope moving into these post-pandemic years. Detailed overview reports of these and other key activities have been published on BGIPU's website which supplements this Annual Report.

In my capacity as BGIPU Chair, I had the honour in 2022 to lead UK delegations to the 144th and 145th IPU Assemblies in Nusa Dua, Indonesia and Kigali, Rwanda respectively. These Assemblies saw general debates on “Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change” and “Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world” although the key focus at both conferences was the collective efforts of many members to call to account Russia's unwarranted and illegitimate war against Ukraine.

The awarding in Kigali of the inaugural Cremer-Passy Prize for parliamentary excellence to the Speaker and all members of the

Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (shared with Cynthia Lopez Castro of Mexico) was a pivotal moment for the IPU in a year where the war in Ukraine has threatened to undermine its work and create deep divisions among its member parliaments. I am very hopeful that legislators in Russia heed the message now agreed by the vast majority of the world's parliamentarians that illegal aggression against the sovereignty of another state will not stand in the eyes of the international parliamentary community without facing almost universal condemnation and significant consequences for both their national interest and any remaining global credibility.

In doing so, the IPU has shown its continuing value as a conduit to seek inter-parliamentary solutions on common global challenges particularly at a time when global norms and values are being tested by autocratic regimes seeking to bully and cajole their neighbours and subvert the global rule of law which had prevented conflict between major world powers for over seventy years. A key role in this effort has been played by the IPU President, Duarte Pacheco and he deserves significant credit for highlighting a number of pressing global concerns not limited to Russia, but also the oppression of women in Iran, other grave human rights violations in Myanmar and Afghanistan as well as the urgent need for urgent action to address climate change.

Standing committee outcomes of IPU Assemblies in 2022 have included resolutions on "Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace", "Leveraging information and communications technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic" and "Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human-trafficking and human rights abuses". In Kigali, the Twelve Plus geopolitical group of European and other democratic parliaments (very effectively chaired by Dutch colleague Arda Gerken who led us brilliantly through recent challenges) also facilitated an important side event on LGBT+ rights. The Twelve Plus Group also

continued to lead in ensuring the defence of Ukraine's interests remained very high on the IPU agenda with increasingly strong support from colleagues in the Group of Latin American and the Caribbean (GRULAC) parliaments and other like-minded parliaments globally.

In addition to IPU Assemblies, we have also sent UK delegations to a number of IPU-hosted meetings delivering a parliamentary voice at major global meetings. BGIPU supported UK participation in the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations in February (addressing inclusive post-pandemic recovery) and in June sent members to a Global Parliamentary Conference on Migration hosted by the Turkish Parliament as well as a cross -party delegation to the Eighth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Egypt. BGIPU supported UK participation at the High Level Political Forum on Development in July in New York and also ensured UK members were at the WTO Public Forum in September in Geneva as well as preparing to send delegates to the COP 27 parliamentary meeting at COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh.

Our work would not be possible without the invaluable support we receive from UK Ministers and His Majesty's Ambassadors and Embassy staff abroad for which we are grateful. We also very much appreciate the involvement in our work of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) with Heads of Department and desk officers regularly supporting our visit preparations, alongside the vital assistance provided by the Parliamentary Relations team. I would also like to acknowledge the key contribution made by many Ambassadors and diplomatic mission staff here in London who continue to provide essential support to BGIPU's work throughout the year, noting some extraordinary valuable roundtable events held in the IPU Room this year bringing such wisdom and key perspectives to members of both Houses. I am sure all Executive Committee members would also join me in paying tribute to the work of the BGIPU Secretariat in so effectively administering the activities of the Group.

My time as Chair has certainly been unusual with two very different experiences of inter-parliamentary activity; one largely “virtual” and the other “real-life” during the quite extraordinarily unusual period we have all experienced since March 2020. This provides an opportunity for reflection on the intrinsic value of our inter-parliamentary work. For all the detailed knowledge and understanding gained during virtual conferences and discussions in 2020 and 2021, a single delightful moment of high-fives, hugs and handshakes on the successful adoption of the emergency item in defence of Ukraine in Kigali, stands perhaps the brightest as the highlight of my time as Chair.

Demonstrably, it is the direct physical connection and personal contact with colleagues which makes our inter-parliamentary work all the more meaningful and engaging. In the act of coming together to meet in a single place, stepping beyond our borders and reaching out that hand of parliamentary kinship, we find that which makes BGIPU’s work so unique and worthwhile. Meeting counterparts from all four corners of the world in common cause for a better world, we find the true spirit of Sir William Randal Cremer’s extraordinary legacy. But it was also the insurmountable obstacles restricting our contact during the pandemic, as much as the successes and friendships we now enjoy which pinpoints the value of this engagement for us all.

Harriett Baldwin MP
Chair, British Group IPU
9 November 2022

Director's Report



Rick Nimmo
Director,
BGIPU

I am pleased to be able to outline the key management issues addressed by the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) Secretariat in 2022, expressing deep appreciation for such strong membership support for our work during this year, as we returned to full active operations after the disruptions and restrictions of the past few years due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. This period saw the adoption of a new three-year Strategic Business Plan by the Executive Committee on 7 June 2022, guiding our work and setting key programme objectives for the post-pandemic period. The plan provides a solid basis for our administrative, financial and human resources priorities in addition to ensuring a well-considered foreign policy foundation for our activities, including in response to UK foreign policy changes such as new post-Brexit directions under the “Global Britain” banner.

The business plan also responds to new challenges for our inter-parliamentary work, particularly during a time of increasing global uncertainty and geopolitical tensions, greatly escalated by Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine which has radically changed the entire European security outlook. The business plan also ensures BGIPU meets all funding obligations and requirements under the Financial Memorandum (FM) agreed in October 2020 with funding bodies in both Houses.

BGIPU continued to monitor closely its finances to ensure reserve levels remain consistent with FM requirements. Requests for allocations across the year are already designed to reflect peaks and troughs in known expenditure patterns. In recent years, BGIPU also deferred or reduced requests for agreed funding during periods of greatly reduced activity due to global travel bans and restrictions.

Overall, the quality and accuracy of our financial accounts was warmly acknowledged by external auditors which was a credit to the Finance and Administration Manager, Ms Alex Milsom, who maintained her excellent record of accurate financial accounting into her fourth year of employment. We are very sorry to say farewell her with our best wishes and gratitude as she leaves for alternative employment later this month.

In support of our 2023-24 Request for Funding submitted in September 2022, I undertook a detailed review of our specific achievements against the BGIPU objectives contained in the Strategic Business Plan. This review highlighted key successes for the year including full compliance with BGIPU governance rules, a steady return to strong rates of participation in our activities from members of both Houses, continuing excellent financial management outcomes and timely filling of any staffing gaps which arose.

Following completion of its work from home trial at the end of summer, BGIPU has returned now to office-based work four days a week on the parliamentary estate with one day retained each Friday on a work from home basis in line with assessed operating requirements and feedback from staff. This ended the long period of the Secretariat operating on a work from home basis for much of 2020 and 2021 before trialling other work hours options parallel to the House of Commons in the latter part of 2021 and the first part of 2022. These changes reflect common adjustments to core employment practices experienced by much of the UK workforce, including more widely in Parliament, as usual operations have resumed in the post-pandemic period.

Marking its tenth year of operation since a significant revamp in 2012, including a full refresh and upgrade in 2019, the BGIPU website continues to provide effective promotion of BGIPU's activities and reporting, supplementing this annual report. BGIPU also uses Twitter extensively to provide "real-time" reporting on activities as well as a curated feed of key international relations-related commentary and

articles as part of our outreach work. It is now very well established as the second most popular inter-parliamentary relations channel as the second most popular inter-parliamentary relations channel on Twitter (after the IPU's own Twitter channel) with over 3,500 followers and over 300,000 annual tweet impressions across the full scope of BGIPU activities.

In membership promotion events this year, we arranged two members outreach stands in Portcullis House as well as the summer diplomatic reception and a 2022 Pride event. BGIPU will also host its annual charity quiz night later this month in support of communities in Ukraine while also increasing awareness of BGIPU's work and better engaging members and their staff on its activities. There has been continuation of the partnership with the John Smith Trust where BGIPU hosts events for fellows from Wider Europe and Central Asia to engage with UK MPs/Peers as well as events with other key partner organisations such as the BBC World Service, the World Food Programme, ICRC and other non-government and civil society bodies.

There was very positive praise for the skill and professionalism of Secretariat staff from MPs/Peers and visiting delegations alike and high levels of cooperation achieved with key stakeholders like the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in London and key UK Missions abroad. In 2022, there was also very healthy levels of engagement with a growing number of London-based embassies restoring beneficial contacts and creating new connections impacted by recent past pandemic restrictions.

BGIPU maintains continuing close engagement with the other inter-parliamentary bodies, particularly our sister body, the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and regular and mutually beneficial engagement with country based and thematic All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG) supporting a diverse range of activities in Westminster and a limited number of visits abroad through a dedicated APPG funding programme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretariat enjoys close partnership and cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Offices (IPROs) of both Houses and I acknowledge with thanks the support of our budget holders, Ms Lynn Gardner and Mr Jake Vaughan (moving on from this role last month). There is a close relationship too with the Speakers' Offices of both Houses, particularly the HoC External Affairs team led by David Clark and also with Zana Paul in Lord Speaker's Office. Likewise, we depend heavily on the cooperation of many other staff across both Houses, particularly Committee staff and the International Affairs Unit, as well as security, catering and many other dedicated staff who play key roles in welcoming international visitors to the Palace of Westminster.

I offer my deepest gratitude to all members of the Executive Committees for their guidance and support of BGIPU throughout 2022, both here in London and on delegations, meetings and Assemblies abroad. I am particularly grateful to the outgoing Chair, Harriett Baldwin MP, who has made a major contribution to BGIPU's work despite the disruptions during the first two years of her three-year term. Since in-person events resumed late last year, Ms Baldwin made very powerful impacts in her contributions to IPU Assemblies, often leading like-minded countries in our collective defence of Ukraine's sovereignty against Russian aggression. In doing so, she has ensured the wider cause of democracy and global rule of law has been advanced through the IPU, despite some members preferring the organisation stand mute in the face of such actions, winning high praise for her pivotal role in this regard.

With huge gratitude for the commitment shown by the hard working members of our Secretariat team, I pay tribute to how they have managed the difficult work and personal challenges of recent years with such grace and resilience. Indeed, when called upon to ramp up our interparliamentary exchanges and events once restrictions were finally lifted earlier this year, they did so with characteristic

enthusiasm making sure we are well on track to surpass activity targets this financial year. As noted above, I single out for the warmest praise the work of Ms Alex Milsom who departs the Secretariat shortly and also Ms Lucy Nash who made an excellent contribution as the International Project Manager for Africa and the Middle East from August 2019 before departing earlier this year. Their dedication, along with that of long-standing and newer staff members, remains key to BGIPU's success.

Rick Nimmo
Director, British Group IPU
9 November 2022

Minutes of the 2021-22 Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union

Wednesday 8 December 2021

The Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union was held on Wednesday 8 December 2021. Mr Speaker, the Rt Hon. Mr Lindsay Hoyle MP, was in the chair.

Item 1: Opening remarks by the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt Hon. Mr Lindsay Hoyle MP

MR SPEAKER:

My Lords, Ladies and gentlemen, may I first of all say thank you and welcome to this Annual General Meeting, which we started by ringing the bell? I extend a very warm welcome to everybody. I hope you have had some time to review the 2021 Annual Report, published on the BGIPU website on 17 November 2021. Hard copies are available here for those who would like one. Please note that there is no election ballot today. The new Executive Committee will be dealt with under item 8. I will now move on.

Item 6: Presentation of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 by Alex Sobel MP, Treasurer

MR SPEAKER:

I believe we have a speaker under item 6. We have votes today, so we might be shuffling items around, but we will try to get through in the best way we can.

ALEX SOBEL MP:

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to speak first; I am due to speak in the rail debate and do not want to miss the start. As the Treasurer of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union, I present the Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021, shown at pages 62 to 72 of our 2021 Annual

Report, which covers the 2020-21 financial year. Kreston Reeves LLP conducted the audit again this year. I welcome Peter Hudson and Anne Dwyer, who are representing Kreston Reeves here today. On page 54 of the 2021 Annual Report, our auditors report their unqualified opinion of the Financial Statements. The Audit Committee deliberated, via Zoom meeting, on 8 July 2021 and recommended that the Executive Committee approve the Financial Statements, which the Chair and Treasurer signed, as agreed, at the Executive Committee meeting on 15 July 2021.

The Income and Expenditure account appears on page 62. Income decreased from £1,206,985 to £879,906, with the Group receiving £879,580 of grant-in-aid, which was 65% of the available amount, compared with £1,205,820, which was 90%, in the previous year. Bank interest decreased from £1,116 to £282 due to the decrease in interest rates in that period.

Overall expenditure decreased by £220,231 from £1,177,227 to £956,996. The BGIPU's annual subscription to the IPU in Geneva, charged in Swiss francs, decreased slightly to 521,600 CHF in 2021, compared with 521,700 CHF in the previous year. The sum paid by each member country of the IPU is based on the UN scale of contributions and so can vary year on year.

The IPU subscription was paid as soon as funds permitted in January 2021, but because this relates to a calendar year, only one quarter of the 2021 payment is reflected in the 2020-21 Income and Expenditure account. The remaining three quarters are treated as a prepayment, consistent with prior years. The 12+ Group subscription, which is charged in euros, remained the same in 2021. The sterling amount increased slightly, from £1,374 to £1,411, due to a variation in the exchange rate.

As a result of the global pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions imposed by parliamentary authorities and in other countries, there have sadly been no physical conferences, IPU seminars or inward or outward delegation visits during the 2020-21 financial year. As a result, there has been minimal expenditure. A busy bilateral programme took place, however, with virtual meetings taking place between UK members and parliamentary counterparts in 20 countries from around the globe. Only four of these bilateral meetings incurred interpretation costs, at a total of £1,515.

There was also expenditure of £1,971 for a hotel deposit for COP26, which successfully took place in Glasgow last month; thank you—I attended that event. For accounting purposes, this amount was treated as a prepayment. Due to subsequent travel restrictions as a result of the pandemic, no assistance was given to all-party parliamentary groups in the 2020-21 financial year. This is compared with the 2019-20 financial year, when funding was claimed by eight APPGs, with an average cost of £1,550.

The cost of staff salaries and related expenses increased from £455,333 to £507,609. Staffing levels remained constant at eight members, and there were no resignations or subsequent recruitment costs. BGIPU followed the House of Commons pay settlement for 2020-21, which provided an interim pay increase in April prior to final agreement in August 2020. All employees received a small increase in rates of pay as a result of these settlements. The director's salary was also increased in line with the Senior Commons Structure remuneration outcome.

In pre-pandemic times, as part of a range of member services and outreach efforts, BGIPU hosts themed lectures or events in the IPU Room on international relations issues or inter-parliamentary priorities, to promote the work of the BGIPU within Parliament and promote awareness of key areas of the IPU agenda. This activity was maintained virtually throughout the 2020-21 financial year, however, resulting in 35 partnered and themed events. The overall spend in this category was £8,016. This total also includes website hosting, at a cost of £660, and the purchase of IPU flags, at a cost of £356. The £7,000 funding contribution to the Parliamentary Human Rights Group is also included under this item, as the members' briefing provided under the co-operation agreement directly supports and complements their inter-parliamentary engagement. This payment has remained the same as agreed in 2020.

General hospitality costs decreased due to a lower number of outreach events taking place, while depreciation costs increased slightly. Audit fees increased marginally, while insurance and sundry expenses, including bank charges and other office costs, have decreased. The balance sheet on page 63 shows that net assets have decreased from £823,095 to £746,005. Fixed assets have increased slightly, from £9,386 to £11,647. Prepayments also increased slightly,

from £312,352 to £335,735.

Cash reserves have decreased by £93,056, from £525,392 to £432,336—there are a lot of figures in this report, I am afraid to say. This decrease is in line with a proactive policy of reducing reserves in line with the financial memorandum, with both Houses of Parliament requesting only payment that is sufficient to meet the anticipated expenditure of planned activities, and with expenditure reviewed quarterly prior to requests for payment.

The cash flow statement on page 64 shows the overall deficit for the year was £77,090. The financial memorandum concluded in September 2020 was in effect throughout the 2020-21 financial year. The Annual Report containing these financial statements is made public on the BGIPU website prior to the AGM. That concludes my report.

Item 7: Re-appointment of Auditors

MR SPEAKER:

If there are no questions, may I move us on to reappointment of the auditors? Is everybody happy to reappoint the auditors?

(Proposed by Christian Matheson MP and seconded by Lord Dholakia.)

Item 1: Opening remarks by the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt Hon. Mr Lindsay Hoyle MP

MR SPEAKER:

Thank you for that. I would now like to go back to the beginning of the agenda, as items 6 and 7 have been dealt with. Just to finish off my remarks, thank you for allowing me to be the Honorary Joint President. I want to say that Rick, Harriett and everybody involved, including our Treasurer, have all done a magnificent job. It has been a very difficult period, through covid.

Thank you for the invite to COP26. You will not know how much that meant to me—to arrive at 2 o'clock in the morning in Glasgow, with drunken people outside saying, “What are you doing here?” A taxi

driver wanted a selfie, but we got there. I found it very interesting. I thought the whole event was fantastic. I also have to thank the people of Chorley. For people who did not know, Tuvalu had a great meeting with them. I did not realise that they had a display. They donated polar bears to me, so I have now suddenly ended up with four polar bears wearing lifejackets in Chorley, and they are life-size polar bears—six foot tall each and sit on a plinth. When somebody donates such things to you, you are not quite sure. Many things are donated, but I think giving the Speaker polar bears is a first for Parliament.

What I can say is that, surprisingly, the House of Commons did not want them, as much as I tried to tempt them. Helen, the chief of staff, said, “They are not coming in Speaker’s House, and they are not going by the Jubilee Fountain. No—you’re not doing it.” But just to reassure everybody, they have a very good home. They are now in the Youth Zone in Chorley, and the young people now feel that they are part of Glasgow and COP26. It was an unusual gift, but we have certainly made the best out of it. Once again, I thank you for all that you are doing. You have made me so welcome. Thanks to the whole team and to everybody who is involved in the IPU.

Item 2: Apologies for absence

MR SPEAKER:

Are there any apologies for absence?

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

There are 24 apologies.

MR SPEAKER:

I think we will accept those without naming them.

Item 3: Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 2 December 2020

MR SPEAKER:

We are now required to adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 2 December 2020. May I have a proposer and seconder that the minutes are adopted as a true record of the meeting?

(Proposed by Lord Dholakia and seconded by Baroness D'Souza.)

All those in favour please raise your hand. Thanks for that, everybody. I shall now sign the minutes as a true record.

Item 4: Matters arising from the minutes

MR SPEAKER:

Are there any matters arising from those minutes?

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

No.

Item 5: Adoption of the Annual Report for 2021

MR SPEAKER:

I am very pleased to welcome a great friend of the IPU, the one and only right hon. Amanda Milling, who is Minister for overseas territories as well. Over to you, Amanda.

AMANDA MILLING MP:

I fear that the Division Bell may go quite quickly after I start, but we will see how we get on.

I am happy to propose the formal adoption of the Annual Report. To begin with, I would like to pay my respects to our friend and colleague, Sir David Amess. [HON. MEMBERS: "Hear, hear."] Sir David was committed to this group's work for many years, most recently as a member of the Executive Committee. I know I speak for all of us when I say that he was an outstanding parliamentarian, and his loss is keenly

felt by all of us.

This has also been a challenging year for many other reasons, as we continue to fight the pandemic and the climate crisis. I was interested to hear the story about the polar bears in Chorley. I would like to congratulate this group on everything you have achieved over the past 12 months in very difficult circumstances. The challenges we face make diplomacy and parliamentary engagement more important than ever.

As the Minister for Asia, I have witnessed your tireless work to build stronger relationships with parliaments around the world. This helps us to support one another and tackle global challenges shoulder to shoulder. Thank you for all that you have done to promote British interests abroad, project our values, and champion democracy.

Despite travel restrictions making face-to-face meetings difficult, you supported a busy and impressive programme over this year. The excellent virtual meetings you hosted in the run-up to COP26 are a good example of this. They brought together parliamentarians from Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region. This was an excellent opportunity to discuss work on climate change and encourage greater ambition. Those meetings also helped to build relationships between parliamentarians, the value of which cannot be overstated.

This group also played a leading role in organising the COP26 parliamentary meeting in Glasgow, which brought together more than 200 parliamentarians to discuss their fundamental roles in implementing the Paris agreement. In particular, that meeting helped to underline the importance of increased parliamentary engagement to address climate change.

By enacting laws and scrutinising Government work, parliamentarians can help to harmonise economic and environmental policies. As noted in the Annual Report, the unanimous adoption of the Glasgow climate pact demonstrated UK leadership in response to the climate emergency. UK parliamentarians have made a very strong contribution to that, and I congratulate the British Group on all your efforts.

Parliamentary solidarity is equally important when it comes to making covid-19 vaccines accessible to all. I know some of you have recently returned from the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Madrid, where

hundreds of parliamentarians assembled from 117 countries. Vaccine equity was a key theme, and I am grateful to British Group members for championing that cause.

As you know, the UK government was one of the first major donors to the international coronavirus response. That includes a £548 million donation to support the COVAX and supplying up to 1.8 billion vaccine doses next year in up to 92 developing countries. The UK's leading work on this, with support from the British Group, galvanised international action to combat the pandemic.

This group also plays a crucial role in starting conversations, promoting understanding, and identifying common goals with our fellow parliamentary democracies. A particular highlight this year, from my point of view as the Minister for Asia, was the virtual meeting you organised in July between UK parliamentarians and the new ambassador for Vietnam. I know they enjoyed a productive and informative discussion on trade, ASEAN collaboration, education and tourism.

You also convened wide-ranging virtual discussions with ambassadors from Central Asia and the Middle East, and bilateral meetings with partners including Portugal, Finland, Iceland and Lithuania. These all helped to build friendships, understanding and co-operation.

In conclusion, before I run to vote, on behalf of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, thank you for your tireless work to support us and UK diplomacy. Thank you for being such unwavering champions of democracy and British values. I look forward to our work going forward. Thank you, Mr Speaker, and apologies to all.

MR SPEAKER:

Stephen Doughty is not here. Chris, would you like to formally second on behalf of the Labour party?

CHRISTIAN MATHESON:

Formally, Mr Speaker, with thanks to the Minister.

Item 8: Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for 2021/22

MR SPEAKER:

I now move on to the BGIPU's elections. I take it that the AGM is willing to confirm the election of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Group as published on the website and notified to all members by the Secretariat in an all-member e-mail sent on 1 December. As there are no objections to that outcome, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents are confirmed in accordance with those arrangements.

Regarding the composition of the BGIPU Executive Committee, I am advised by the Secretariat that nominated members are all standing unopposed. I am pleased to confirm that the following Officers and the Executive Committee members are elected as nominated: Ms Harriett Baldwin MP will be returning as Chair; continuing as Vice-Chairs will be the Rt Hon. Dame Diana Johnson MP, the Rt Hon. Baroness D'Souza and, newly elected as the Government Party Vice-Chair, the Rt Hon. John Whittingdale MP, who is returning to the BGIPU Executive Committee, being a past Chair. He replaces Ian Liddell-Grainger MP, who we thank for his service, as ever, as Vice-Chair over the last three years. Alex Sobel MP is also re-confirmed as Honorary Treasurer.

Also standing unopposed to the Committee for the Government are Bob Blackman MP, the Rt Hon. Alun Cairns MP, Richard Holden MP, Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger MP, Mark Menzies MP, Damien Moore MP, Andrew Rosindell MP, Gary Sambrook MP and Martin Vickers MP. Opposition positions are confirmed for Dan Carden MP, Wayne David MP, Chris Matheson MP, Grahame Morris MP, Abena Oppong-Asare MP, Kate Osamor MP, Dr Lisa Cameron MP and Chris Law MP.

I am also pleased to confirm the election unopposed of Peers: Lord Gilbert of Panteg, Baroness Hooper, Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate, Lord Dubs, Lord Dholakia and Lord Cromwell—I didn't know you were still around. I congratulate the returning members.

LORD CROMWELL:

Be careful what you wish for.

MR SPEAKER:

He did behead the Speaker, so I do not wish for anything.

LORD CROMWELL:

Don't remind me.

MR SPEAKER:

I try not to. We also welcome new members elected today, noting that there will be two further co-options in early 2022 to ensure a party balance. Thank you everybody.

balance. Thank you everybody.

Item 10: Any other business

LORD CROMWELL:

Just to comfort you, I am no relation to that Cromwell or the other one, so you can rest easy; your head will stay on your shoulders as far as I am concerned. I had a question about the finances. I noticed there was a substantial cut in the grant in aid. We managed to spend a good deal less because, less because, through force of circumstances, we did less, but we ended up with a substantial £17,000 deficit. What is the budget for next year looking like?

MR SPEAKER:

Rick, over to you. As the Treasurer is voting and speaking in the Chamber, we will rely on the Director.

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

The budget is essentially based on a nominal full-year spend, basically carrying out all our activities, which of course has not been possible for the past two years. Effectively, because we ask quarterly, we moderate the request according to how much we spend in terms of activity.

At different points in 2020, we asked for zero allocation. I think last year we ended up with around 60% of total and we expended slightly more than that, because we always have to watch our reserves; we do not want to build up reserves inadvertently. This year, we will take about a full 90% for the year. Again, we will slightly overspend to keep that reserve pressure downwards.

We are hopeful that next year we will have the full 100%, which is just under £1.4 million. But effectively it is all based on how much activity we can do. We then moderate quarterly and make the request. Any underspend is intentional and designed to ensure that our reserves levels stay at around a nominal target of 25% of total spend.

Lately, we have been running quite low—even to below 20%—because we know that with the lack of activity, we run the risk of taking too much money. That money can obviously be spent elsewhere in Parliament for essential reasons, so we never want to over-ask or overachieve on that spend. We always moderate it according to what we expect.

LORD CROMWELL:

That is really helpful, thank you.

MR SPEAKER:

That's great. Any other questions? We're in abeyance. You're only asking for the sake of it—go on, Chris.

CHRISTIAN MATHESON:

You know me too well, Mr Speaker.

Rick, there have been issues in the past with some of the bureaucratic officers in Parliament not necessarily recognising the BGIPU as a formal part of the operations of both Houses. Can you let us know how that is developing and whether you have managed to smooth out those problems, please?

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

It is an issue that was highlighted through our audit process. I was asked to do a paper on the institutional standing of the organisation within Parliament. Obviously, we are firmly part of Parliament, having been doing this for over 130 years, but there is a continuing irritant of some —particular newer parts of Parliament not recognising who we are or not understanding our role. I think that is complicated by covid, because they cannot see us doing much around the House. Virtual events are great for those who attend, but if you are not attending them, you do not know they are happening.

We are very keen on physical events, which will allow us to basically show the rest of Parliament what we do and what we are good at. We hope to do a lot of outreach through that period as we return to full physical activity. It is still an ongoing irritant, and I will report to the Audit Committee in the new year about that. There are issues at the moment around us being able to be listed on staff directories, not being on the fire warden list for the building we are in, and things like that. It comes up continually: people look us up and we do not exist in some of the structures. We are trying to address that.

BARONESS D'SOUZA:

Very quickly. Would it be appropriate to say a formal thank you to Rick and all the staff for all they have achieved during this time? We are hugely appreciative.

MR SPEAKER:

Let's get that into the minutes. It is much appreciated.

Item 9: Speech by the Chair**MR SPEAKER:**

Now it is my pleasure to introduce the Chair. Thank you, Harriett, for all you do, and thank you for getting us through a very, very difficult time. Over to you.

HARRIETT BALDWIN MP:

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. It is a great honour to be at your side today. I thank you and the Lord Speaker for all of your commitment to the work of the BGIPU, in particular that commitment to getting to Glasgow at 2 am. Was it a Saturday night? It was quite lively outside our hotel, I seem to recall. It really made the difference.

I want to start by adding to what Amanda Milling said in her proposing remarks about how greatly we all miss our late, dear and lamented colleague Sir David Amess. He made such a difference over so many years to the work of the IPU. At our recent executive, we stood and paid our tribute with a minute of silence. I know that everyone here would want to be associated with that.

I am deeply honoured to be re-elected, uncontested, for the third and final year of my chairmanship of the BGIPU. Up until November, I was the first chairman in history never actually to have travelled in that role. Fortunately, we had the very excellent event up in Glasgow in the margins of COP26. There were over 200 parliamentarians, and it was an endorsement of the work that Alex Sobel and Alessia Rotta from the Italian Parliament had done. The piece of work that they had done—the outcome document—was universally adopted. A huge amount of work had gone into it. That is a very good document for parliamentarians around the world to hold their Governments to account in terms of the commitments made at COP26.

I also want to add my thanks to Rick, Dominique, Rhiannon and the whole team for the amazing job they did in organising. Fiona's local knowledge got us the Kelvingrove as the venue. It was a fantastic venue, and that made it a tremendous event, with really good content as well. I also thank the team for moving so seamlessly from virtual meetings into physical meetings and organising for us all to go to Madrid last week, and showing a strong presence from the British Group.

In the time of my chairmanship, there have been three main themes other than the overriding theme of COP26. One has been this important mission to get the US to join the IPU. In that, I salute you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to meet with Nancy Pelosi in Chorley, and I also thank you for buttonholing her in Rome. There is no question but that across the whole of the 12+ Group, we have made

some real progress in terms of trying to persuade the US that its important democratic voice is needed back in the IPU. I think we have got a long way to go, but I think we have made some good headway on that.

I think we demonstrated at the Assembly in Madrid the importance of that collective democratic voice, with the 12+ Group putting down a motion about Belarus, and really getting that very much noticed. It wasn't the one that was finally adopted—that was around vaccine equity—but it really made a splash and made the point very strongly.

Just this week, we have been able to lodge the cases of several of our parliamentarians here who have been sanctioned by China for speaking out about the Uyghurs with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. That has really demonstrated how we can work together as liberal democracies to counteract some of the threats to democracy that we are seeing all around the world. It is of overriding importance that we continue with the work to try to get the US to rejoin; it was a founding member.

It has been an unbelievably busy year. I understand you have read my report to the Group already—we have had a lot of virtual meetings, as well as those two important physical meetings and there is a very active programme of work planned. Before the next vote is called, what I want to do is to commend the work of the team and the Executive Committee and accept with humble gratitude being re-elected, unopposed, on this occasion.

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

On behalf of the Secretariat, I thank the Chair for those very kind words, and I thank her and all of the Executive Committee, in what has been a very tough two years for the Secretariat. The key thing for the IPU is that, while we basically could not operate during world war one and world war two, and the third biggest disruption has been covid, the IPU has gone from strength to strength during this period, because we have had the means and the technology to do so, but also the commitment of parliamentarians across the world to ensure that they continued to operate and co-operate and work very closely together.

I also wanted to note that although the report up to this period noted that there were no resignations during the period of our financial report, we have since had the resignation of Megan Black, a very strong contributor and a very valued member of staff. I want to acknowledge her contribution as well.

Item 11: Closure of meeting

MR SPEAKER:

I now close the meeting as we have more votes. Thank you.

Officers and Executive Committee

Following the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 8 December 2021, the under-mentioned were elected as Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.

BGIPU Honorary Presidents

Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP (The Commons Speaker)

Rt Hon the Lord McFall of Alcluith (The Lord Speaker)

BGIPU President

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP (Prime Minister)

BGIPU Vice-Presidents:

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP

Rt Hon Theresa May MP

Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP

Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP

Lisa Nandy MP

Preet Gill MP

Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP

Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP

Dan Carden MP

Kate Osamor MP

Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP

Rt Hon the Baroness Hayman GBE

Rt Hon the Baroness D'Souza CMG

Rt Hon the Lord Hammond of Runnymede

Rt Hon the Lord Owen CH

Meetings of the Executive Committee

Since the last Annual General Meeting on 8 December 2021 there have been five Executive Committee meetings: Tuesday 1 February, Tuesday 15 March, Tuesday 7 June, Tuesday 19 July and Tuesday 1 November.

Meetings of the Audit Committee

Since the last Annual General Meeting on 8 December 2022 there have been two Audit Committee deliberations: Tuesday 1 March (by video conference), and one subsequent meeting on Tuesday 12 July (in person).

Officers & Executive Committee (As elected 8 December 2021)

Chair:

Harriett Baldwin MP

Vice-Chairs:

Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale MP OBE

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson MP

Rt Hon the Baroness D'Souza CMG

Treasurer:

Alex Sobel MP

Executive Committee:

Conservative Party

Bob Blackman MP

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP (Co-opted)

Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP

Richard Holden MP[^]

Alicia Kearns MP (Co-opted)

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP

Mark Menzies MP

Damien Moore MP*

Andrew Rosindell MP

Gary Sambrook MP

Martin Vickers MP

The Lord Gilbert of Panteg

The Baroness Hooper CMG

The Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate

Labour Party

Dan Carden MP

Wayne David MP

Chris Matheson MP⁺

Grahame Morris MP

Abena Oppong-Asare MP

Kate Osamor MP

The Lord Dubs

Scottish National Party

Dr Lisa Cameron MP

Chris Law MP

Cross Bench

Lord Cromwell

Other Party Peer

Rt Hon the Lord Dholakia OBE DL

⁺(Resigned as an MP in October 2022)

*(Stood down following appointment to Government in September 2022)

[^](Stood down following appointment to Government in November 2022)

Membership of the British Group

As a result of rule changes adopted at the AGM on December 3 2014, all members of both Houses of Parliament are deemed to be full members of the BGIPU. As at November 9 2022, total membership of the group was 1,424.



Delegation from France meet with Chairman of Ways and Means Rt Hon Dame Eleanor Laing MP in February 2022.

Members meet with the delegation from Saudi Arabia in the IPU Room May 2022.



Members of the Delegation from Ukraine with Mr Speaker in June 2022.

Tim Loughton MP giving a tour to the Delegation from Germany in June 2022.





UK Members meet with the President of the Senate in Gabon in May 2022.

BGIPU Chair Harriett Baldwin MP welcomed to HQ of NATO Mission to Kosovo (KFOR) in Pristina in July 2022.



UK members meeting the Under-Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs in Finland September 2022.

Dan Carden MP, giving a speech on LGBT+ rights at the 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali in October 2022.



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

**Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement
Year ended 31 March 2022**

**Kreston Reeves LLP
Statutory Auditor & Chartered Accountants
Second Floor
168 Shoreditch High Street
London
E1 6RA**

Annual Governance Statement

Governance framework

The British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) is an unincorporated association comprising members of both Houses of the UK Parliament united in their support for the aim of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue. Because of an amendment to the BGIPU Rules in December 2014, all members of both houses of the UK Parliament are now deemed to be full members of the BGIPU with a right to participate in the Group's activities.

Governance of the BGIPU is exercised through a 26-member Executive Committee, appointed annually by its entire membership (with provision for up to four additional members to be co-opted). Meeting virtually for the time being due to social-distancing requirements, the Executive Committee approves and oversees the implementation of a Forward Programme of engagement with counterpart parliaments, the principal organs of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and other bodies as appropriate in pursuit of advancing the parliamentary dimension of Britain's foreign relations.

Aside from Honorary Presidential posts, the Officers of the BGIPU comprise the Chair, three vice-Chairs, Honorary Treasurer and the Director. The Officers exercise financial authority on behalf of the Executive Committee and meet 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, currently operating in line with the House of Commons hybrid working trial since the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in September 2021.

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

The Director is responsible to the Officers and the Executive Committee for the implementation of their decisions and effective administration of the organisation and its Secretariat, observing appropriate personnel management policies. The position is also responsible to the Honorary Treasurer to ensure 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 BGIPU's forward programme of activities and facilitates through Selection Committees, the identification of the most appropriately qualified delegates for IPU Assemblies 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, 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.

Under the authority of the Executive Committee, the Audit Committee gives advice to the Honorary Treasurer on the adequacy of audit

arrangements and the implications of assurances regarding 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 allocated from the House of Commons and 30 percent from the House of Lords.

An updated FM was negotiated in March/April 2020, cleared by the BGIPU Executive Committee on 21 May 2020 and after final approval by the administration of both Houses, signed in October 2020. The FM provides the basis for the continued financial support by the UK Parliament of BGIPU. This latest iteration followed directions set in past memoranda agreed in 2012, 2014 and 2017 respectively outlining the arrangements governing the funding and institutional 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 follow recommended limits on reserves. BGIPU is also required to follow broadly a range of administrative, financial and human resources policies, analogous to in the House of Commons, albeit proportionate and relevant to BGIPU's own unique character and circumstances, making financial calls in an exceptionally challenging time when physical and travel-related activities were severely affected by the global pandemic.

Internal risk and audit oversight is exercised by the Audit Committee selected from members of the Executive Committee. The BGIPU also has an annual external audit, with authorised financial statements, an explanatory commentary, and a key issues memorandum presented to the Audit Committee in mid-year for consideration and referral to the

Executive Committee. In accordance with the Rules of the Group (last amended in December 2014), the BGIPU produces an Annual Report in advance of the Annual General Meeting. In response to the findings of an audit undertaken by the funding bodies in early 2016, the Risk Register was streamlined, and a new Procurement Policy was adopted in early 2017. Some suggestions from this audit outcome were also addressed in negotiating the 2017 FM and the Guidance for Members' Travel was strengthened in subsequent years addressing reputational and operational risk issues to declare a zero-tolerance policy on bullying and harassment, setting clear expectations on members' behaviour in relations to BGIPU activities.

Work of the Executive Committee

The BGIPU Executive Committee met on five occasions during the 2021-22 Financial Year. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the committee met in a virtual format on 10 June 2021 and 15 July 2021. Following the easing of restrictions in the autumn, the committee was able to meet face to face for the remaining three meetings which took place on 21 October 2021, 1 February 2022 and 15 March 2022. The Audit Committee convened in a virtual format on Thursday 8 July 2021 to recommend approval of final accounts and met again (virtually due to train strike) on Tuesday 1 March 2022 to review the auditors' Letter of Engagement and supporting documents, and consider the 2022 Risk Management Strategy, including updating the Risk Register. The Annual General Meeting had taken place on Wednesday 8 December 2021 in traditional physical format for the first time since March 2020 to elect a new Executive Committee for 2022.

Under the guidance of the Executive Committee, the Director maintained efforts to improve the organisation's effectiveness through close attention to BGIPU's strategic priorities (subject to constraints around global travel) and regular review of planning and implementation procedures (again against the backdrop against global uncertainties). Consistent with the requirements of the FM, the Director submitted to the funding bodies in September 2021 the annual review of the Executive Committee-approved 3-year Strategic Business Plan adopted in February 2019. BGIPU also submitted detailed

forward planning budgets for the next three financial years in support of BGIPU's 2022/23 Request for Funding. In addition, the Executive Committee approved a detailed Forward Programme for 2022/23 drawing upon the outgoing Strategic Business Plan and making judgements regarding operational requirements accounting for any continuing programme impacts of the global pandemic and intensifying geopolitical challenges.

Under the day-to-day management of the Director, supported by the specialised human resources role of the Finance and Administration Manager, the Executive Committee has taken all appropriate steps to ensure staff members are employed on terms broadly in line with those of the House of Commons as required in the FM, including following the appropriate pay-bands and salary levels applying to House of Commons staff. In October 2019 recognising differing constraints on staff recruitment and retention, the Executive Committee enhanced these employment conditions with a performance appraisal-based bonus scheme for all BGIPU employees following a detailed review of the causes of a spike in resignations in late 2018/early 2019. The BGIPU Secretariat also maintains a comprehensive Staff Handbook, updated regularly in line with any relevant changes to House of Commons policies or practices.

As directed by the Executive Committee, despite the downturn in travel and events, the Secretariat has continued to provide activity reporting through its website, in addition to using social media and electronic circulars to make the Group's work more accessible while ensuring its outreach remains cost-effective. Recognising the need for professional and personal development, there has also been an emphasis on staff training including boosting information technology, communications and design skills, ongoing financial management and budget training, team-building activities and further development of international relations policy skills with support for specialised language training.

Risks

BGIPU's mechanisms and procedures are designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than eliminate all risk of failure to achieve the policies, aims and objectives of the organisation. In doing this, it can provide only reasonable, not absolute assurance of effectiveness. This involves identifying and prioritising the risks for the achievement of the organisation's objectives, evaluating the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact in that event, so best to anticipate and manage risks effectively. While unprecedented events like the COVID-19 outbreak blocked for the better part of two years all global travel and international meetings, BGIPU's pre-existing plans and business continuity arrangements were still effective in allowing all operations to continue to be carried out on a "work from home" basis. Significantly, this adaptation was able to occur rapidly, without any significant financial costs or productivity losses due to the small size and flexibility of the core Secretariat team.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The process of risk management in the BGIPU is based on the judgement and authority of the Executive Committee, including drawing on the experience and advice of the Director and other Secretariat personnel. As far as possible, BGIPU employees are encouraged to take full ownership of their work and be responsible for their part of the risk control process. Members of staff are appropriately informed, guided and trained to manage aspects of risk relevant to their responsibilities. This includes close attention to ensuring due probity and care in the responsible expenditure of public monies. Considering significant disruption to the availability of office holders to act as financial signatories, due to elections, changes to banking requirements (and subsequently office closure and social distancing), severe impacts on BGIPU's ability to meet its financial responsibilities to staff and suppliers were anticipated early and raised with the Executive Committee for action. Appropriate changes were made in October 2019 to maintain payment functions by granting higher level signing rights to senior staff in place of office holders.

This created some risks but they were considered reasonable given the otherwise insurmountable problem of officers being unavailable to approve bank payments due to no physical contact being possible as became the case for much of 2020 and 2021.

BGIPU encourages a working environment which encourages teamwork and dialogue, convenes regular staff meetings and opportunities for individual consultation. The Secretariat also ensures effective processes for the identification and dissemination of best practice and lessons learned. Feedback to the Secretariat on its overall effectiveness and performance is provided by the Officers and Executive Committee and by open report back meetings following completion of projects, attended by the MPs and Peers who have participated in them and other interested stakeholders, including government officials.

Risk Control Framework

A Risk Register has been compiled and approved by the Executive Committee and forms the focus of the organisation's risk management strategy (last reviewed in March 2022). The Director also undertook specialist Risk Management training in 2014 in relation to 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 as required to ensure any issues are fully discussed.

Risk management is embedded in the organisation through Executive Committee oversight, by regular staff reporting and pursuit of best practice, through close review of expenditure and regular scrutiny of the Risk Register by the Audit Committee which can also ask the Director to explore specific issues and concerns as it did surrounding BGIPU's treatment and legal position in relations with other parts of the UK Parliament in 2021. Flexibility and responsiveness were always strong guiding principles in risk preparedness. The rapid deployment of business continuity plans in mid-March 2020 to maintain the full and

effective operation of the Secretariat in the face of unprecedented disruption was another effective demonstration of the effectiveness, forward planning and the high adaptability of staff.

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 and the promotion of best practice. While the Finance and Administration Manager carries the key responsibility for financial accounts management, the decision was taken in April 2019 to employ the services of a trained accountant to provide professional accountancy advice, support and training on a monthly basis. This was deemed a more effective use of resources and replaced the planned position of a Finance and Administrative Assistant at a significantly lower cost to the organisation for a higher service outcome.

Potential compliance risks, including regarding the taxation status of the BGIPU, were addressed fully and resolved through accessing specialist advice and effective remediation action by the Executive Committee. The Secretariat has also worked diligently to address compliance risks associated with a variety of regulatory and employment conditions changes, including in Parliament's response to the global pandemic.

Review of Effectiveness

Delayed by a few months while assessing the continuing effects of the global pandemic and the outbreak of war in Europe following the Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Executive Committee adopted in June 2022 a multi-year Strategic Business Plan, governing the period 2022/23 to 2024/25, the fourth such strategy since 2012. This document provides a long-term planning process combined with appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms which allows BGIPU to be in a stronger position to assess its effectiveness against key objectives, albeit the unparalleled events of 2020 and 2021 had posed entirely unpredictable and unprecedented constraints on achieving many activity and programme goals, as now might the war in

Ukraine. The inclusion of an indicative annual programme also allows BGIPU, including both the Executive Committee and the Secretariat, to better judge the scope and level of inter-parliamentary activity, in addition to ensuring the impact of key outcomes in meeting stated 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 appropriate 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 would put the BGIPU's ability to meet its key objectives at risk. A close, consultative and effective relationship with its funding bodies in both Houses is essential, requiring BGIPU to fully comply with the FM in all its aspects, including through the most prudent management of its reserves.

Notwithstanding the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak across two full years and the geopolitical uncertainties we now also face, based on the feedback of members through formal meetings and informal channels, the support and regular exchanges with the Group's key funding partners, and other key stakeholders, (including the IPU Secretariat in Geneva, the FCO and other relevant UK government bodies), I assess that the Executive Committee and Secretariat are undertaking the key roles and responsibilities of the BGIPU to an appropriate level of effectiveness. This includes regarding its cost-effective use of public monies, its employment responsibilities to staff and its management of its major risks against the backdrop of continuing global challenges and tensions

Mindful of the key monitoring role played by BGIPU's funding bodies in both 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

audit scrutiny and risk management roles of the Audit Committee. Combined with independent external audit mechanisms, I am confident there are appropriate measures in place to ensure the Group's inter-parliamentary activities are well-targeted and represent effective use of the public monies provided for this purpose. As Honorary Treasurer, I am assured by reports from the Audit Committee and through witnessing the deliberations of the Officers and the Executive Committee that the current BGIPU governance structure is sustainable and sufficiently robust in all aspects.

On this basis, I have every confidence in concluding that the governance of BGIPU adequately addresses the expectations of its membership, can be responsive to reasonably anticipated changes in its operating environment, fulfils the expectations of its funding bodies and fully meets all its financial, administrative and programme obligations in a fully satisfactory manner. Indeed, having proved itself effective in dealing with the recent impacts of the global pandemic on its activities, rapidly adopting a comprehensive programme of virtual events in place of other activities, I am assured that BGIPU remains a robust and responsive body in meeting the requirements of its members well into the future.

(Signed)

A Sobel MP

Honorary Treasurer

19 July 2022

Statement of the Executive Committee's responsibilities

Under the BGIPU's rules, the duties of the Executive Committee of the BGIPU include the control 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 2022 which are intended by it to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and of the surplus for that period. The Executive Committee has accepted that the financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In preparing these financial statements, the Executive Committee has:

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

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

Disclosure of information to auditor

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 auditor to the members of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (the ‘organisation’) for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the organisation’s affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of its deficit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the organisation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council’s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to

the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Executive Committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Executive Committee with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Executive Committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained during the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the

the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the organisation and its environment obtained during the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Executive Committee's responsibilities.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of the Executive Committee's remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

As explained more fully in the Executive Committee's responsibilities statement set out on page 50, the Executive Committee are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Executive Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Executive Committee are responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Executive Committee either intend to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud

Based on our understanding of the organisation, and through discussion with the Executive Committee and other management (as required by auditing standards), we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to health and safety and employment law. We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements. We communicated identified laws and regulations through out our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journals, management bias in accounting estimates and judgemental areas of the financial statements. Audit procedures performed by the organisations engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and assessment of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud; and
- Assessment of identified fraud risk factors; and
- Checking and reperforming the reconciliation of key control accounts; and
- Confirmation of related parties with management, and review of transactions throughout the period to identify any previously undisclosed transactions with related parties outside the normal course of business; and
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any manual entries made at the year end for financial statement preparation.

Because of the inherent limitation of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organisation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the members.

- Include on the appropriateness of the Executive Committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organisation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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.

Anne Dwyer BSc (Hons) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

Kreston Reeves LLP

Statutory Auditor & Chartered Accountants

Date: 19 July 2022

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Income			
Grant in aid		1,242,270	879,580
Donations / Subscriptions received from members		44	44
Interest receivable		58	282
		<u>1,242,372</u>	<u>879,906</u>
Expenditure			
Subscriptions		430,982	419,490
Conferences, IPU seminars and outward delegations		174,277	-
Inward delegations, BGIPU seminars and days in Parliament		76,006	1,515
All party groups		6,890	-
Salaries, national insurance and other staff costs	3	475,637	507,069
Printing, stationery and publications		2,141	1,701
Postage and telephone		44	104
IT Consumables		786	614
Member services and events in the UK		9,867	8,016
Audit fee for the audit of these financial statements		8,064	7,320
Insurance		6,050	5,210
General hospitality		169	163
Other expenses		2,110	3,366
Depreciation of fixed assets	5	2,876	2,428
		<u>1,195,899</u>	<u>956,996</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	9	<u>46,473</u>	<u>(77,090)</u>
Opening reserves		746,005	823,095
Closing reserves	9	<u>792,478</u>	<u>746,005</u>

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

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

Notes 1 to 13 form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheet at 31 March 2022

	Note	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
Fixed assets	5		8,772		11,647
Current assets					
Debtors	6	26,050		-	
Prepayments and accrued income	6	322,523		335,735	
Cash at bank and in hand	7	541,576		432,336	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
		890,149		768,071	
Current liabilities					
Creditors	8	(106,443)		(33,713)	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
Net current assets			783,706		734,358
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
Net assets			792,478		746,005
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
Financed by:					
General fund	9		792,478		746,005
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
			792,478		746,005
			<hr/>	<hr/>	

Notes 1 to 13 form part of the financial statements.

(Signed)
A Sobel MP
Honorary Treasurer
19 July 2022

(Signed)
H Baldwin MP
Chair
19 July 2022

Cash flow statement

at 31 March 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flow from operating activities		
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	46,473	(77,090)
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	(58)	(282)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(12,838)	(22,459)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	72,730	8,755
Depreciation charge	2,875	2,428
Purchase of fixed assets	-	(4,690)
Net cash flow from operating activities	109,182	93,338
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest received	58	282
Net cash flow from investing activities	58	282
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	109,240	(93,056)
Cash at the beginning of the year	432,336	525,392
Cash at bank and in hand at the end of the year	541,576	432,336

Notes forming part of the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Legal form

The BGIPU is an unincorporated entity, acting as an autonomous body within Parliament and is an independent parliamentary association. The Group is domiciled in the United Kingdom and the address of its registered office and principal place of business is the Palace of Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA. Details of the principal activity of the BGIPU are included in the Annual Governance Statement on page 40.

1.2 Basis of preparation

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

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

The following accounting policies have been applied:

1.3 Fixed assets and depreciation

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

Computers and software - 25% per annum

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

1.4 Debtors

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

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.6 Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price.

1.7 Pension costs

The organisation makes payments to both defined contribution pension schemes and personal pension plans for the benefit of its employees.

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

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

1.9 Foreign currency translation

Functional and presentation currency

The company's functional and presentational currency is GBP.

Transactions and balances

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

1.10 Grant in aid

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

Grant in aid for the year ended 31 March 2022 of £1,242,270 (2021: £879,580) has been provided by the House of Commons and the House of Lords; contributing 70% and 30% respectively.

1.11 Conference, delegation and all party group expenditure

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

1.12 Interest receivable

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

1.13 Donations / Subscriptions received

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

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

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

3 Staff costs

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

The average number of employees of the BGIPU during the year was 8 (2021: 8).

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	359,311	387,001
Social security costs	41,070	43,182
Pension costs	50,661	52,931
Other costs	24,595	23,955
	<u>475,637</u>	<u>507,069</u>

4 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.

5 Tangible fixed assets

	Paintings	Commemorative bell	Office equipment	Computers and software	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At beginning of year	3,183	890	756	34,519	39,348
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At end of year	3,183	890	756	34,519	39,348
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation					
At beginning of year	-	-	638	27,063	27,701
Charge for year	-	-	18	2,857	2,875
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At end of year	-	-	656	29,920	30,576
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2022	3,183	890	100	4,559	8,772
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2021	3,183	890	118	7,456	11,647
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

6 Debtors: amounts receivable within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments	322,523	335,735
Other debtors	26,050	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	348,573	335,735
	<hr/>	<hr/>

7 Cash at bank and in hand

	2022 £	2021 £
Interest earning bank deposit accounts	530,569	421,329
Non-interest earning bank current account	10,000	10,000
Cash in hand	1,007	1,007
	<u>541,576</u>	<u>432,336</u>

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	79,906	2,357
Accruals and prepaid income	10,205	15,208
Social security and other taxes	13,404	15,793
Other Creditors	2,928	355
	<u>106,443</u>	<u>33,713</u>

9 Reserves

General fund

This reserve comprises all current and prior period retained surplus and deficits.

	General Fund £
Balance at 31 March 2021	746,005
Surplus for the year	46,473
Balance at 31 March 2022	<u><u>792,478</u></u>

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

of grant in aid are agreed and paid. The funding provider advances cash to the organisation when it is required to meet expenditure.

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

10 Pension commitments

Contributions payable by the company relating to both defined contribution pension schemes and personal pension plans for the year amounted to £50,661 (2021: £52,931). At the year end, £3,851 (2021: £4,412) remained unpaid.

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.

12 Related party transactions

During the year persons who were members of the Executive Committee at any time during the financial year incurred reimbursable expenditure while participating in delegations on behalf of the organisation totalling £11,854 (2021: £1,375). At the year-end, £Nil (2021: £Nil) was outstanding.

13 Controlling party

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

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

President:

Mr Duarte Pacheco (Portugal)

November 2023

Members:

Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal)

April 2023

Mr. A. Saidov (Uzbekistan)

October 2023

Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda)

October 2023

To Be Confirmed (Sweden)

October 2023

Ms. P. Krairiksh (Thailand)

October 2023

Mr. J. Mudena (Zimbabwe)

October 2023

Mr. R. Rabbani (Pakistan)

October 2023

Ms. B. Argimón (Uruguay)

October 2024

Dr. Ali Rashid AlNuaimi (UAE)

April 2025

Mr. A. Kharchi (Algeria)

October 2025

Mr. J. Echániz (Spain)

October 2025

Ms. O. Kefalogianni (Greece)

October 2025

Mr. F. Marchand (France)

October 2026

Ms. A. Sarangi (India)

October 2026

Mr. I. Flores Garcia (Chile)

October 2026

Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine) Ex Officio

April 2023

Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt) Ex Officio

April 2023

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. There were also good relations at meetings including Assemblies in Nusa Dua and Kigali, the Parliamentary Hearing in New York, the Young Parliamentarians meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, the Migration meeting in Istanbul, and the upcoming COP27 parliamentary meeting also in Sharm El Sheikh. The British Group continues to enjoy excellent relations at all levels and maintains a strong record of cooperation with the IPU President and the Secretariat in Geneva. 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
E-Mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org
Website: www.ipu.org
Twitter: [@IPUparliament](https://twitter.com/IPUparliament)

National Groups of the IPU

As of November 2022 there are 178 Members and 13 Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

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

Malta	Rwanda	United Kingdom
Marshall Islands	Saint Lucia	United Republic of
Mauritania	Saint Vincent & the	Tanzania
Mauritius	Grenadines	Uruguay
Mexico	Samoa	Uzbekistan
Micronesia (Federated	San Marino	Vanuatu
States of)	Sao Tome & Principe	Venezuela
Monaco	Saudi Arabia	(Bolivarian
Mongolia	Senegal	Republic Of)
Montenegro	Serbia	Viet Nam
Morocco	Seychelles	Yemen
Mozambique	Sierra Leone	Zambia
Myanmar	Singapore	Zimbabwe
Namibia	Slovakia	
Nepal	Slovenia	
Netherlands	Somalia	
New Zealand	South Africa	
Nicaragua	South Sudan	
Niger	Spain	
Nigeria	Sri Lanka	
North Macedonia	Suriname	
Norway	Sweden	
Oman	Switzerland	
Pakistan	Syrian Arab Republic	
Palau	Tajikistan	
Palestine	Thailand	
Panama	Timor-Leste	
Papua New Guinea	Togo	
Paraguay	Tonga	
Peru	Trinidad & Tobago	
Philippines	Tunisia	
Poland	Türkiye	
Portugal	Turkmenistan	
Qatar	Tuvalu	
Republic of Korea	Uganda	
Republic of Moldova	Ukraine	
Romania	United Arab	
Russian Federation	Emirates	

Associate Members

Andean Parliament

Arab Parliament

Central American Parliament

East African Legislative Assembly

European Parliament

Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the
Commonwealth of Independent States

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

Latin American and Caribbean Parliament

Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community

Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

**Details of funding granted in support of All Party
Parliamentary Group Activities in the period November
2021 to November 2022**

Each year, BGIPU approves financial assistance to a range of All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) which apply for support.

APPGs eligible for BGIPU support consist 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.

APPG Greece

Assistance totalling £118.61 was provided to the Greece APPG for a lunch with the Ambassador and members of the APPG in March 2022.

APPG Mexico

Assistance totalling £216.97 was provided to the Mexico APPG for a dinner with the Ambassador and members of the APPG in March 2022.

APPG Armenia

Assistance totalling £6,554 was provided to the Armenia APPG for an outward delegation to Yerevan, attended by Tim Loughton MP, Jonathan Djanogly MP, Jess Morden MP, Chris Law MP, The Bishop of Coventry and Baroness Cox in March 2022.

APPG Georgia

Assistance totalling £515.58 was provided to the Georgia APPG for a dinner for the delegation and local business and cultural representatives whilst in Tbilisi in April 2022.

APPG Greece

Assistance totalling £32.85 was provided to the Greece APPG for an afternoon tea with the Ambassador and members of the APPG in June 2022.

APPG Sweden

Assistance totalling £281.55 was provided to the Sweden APPG for a welcome lunch for the new Swedish Ambassador and members of the APPG in June 2022.

APPG North Macedonia

Assistance totalling £230.60 was provided to the North Macedonia APPG for a farewell reception for the outgoing Ambassador and members of the APPG in July 2022.

APPG Denmark

Assistance totalling £214.39 was provided to the Denmark APPG for a welcome lunch for the new Danish Ambassador and members of the APPG in September 2022.

APPG Polar Regions

Assistance totalling £5000 was provided to the Polar Regions APPG for an outward delegation to Greenland, attended by James Gray MP, Rt Hon Nigel Evans MP, Tim Loughton MP, Anna McMorrin MP, Jess Morden MP, Baroness Neville-Jones, Lord Mann, Baroness Northover and Lord Lisvane, in September/October 2022.

APPG Italy

Assistance totalling £48.65 was provided to the Italy APPG for a welcome Afternoon Tea for the new Italian Ambassador and members of the APPG in October 2022.

APPG France

Assistance totalling £426.91 was provided to the French APPG for a lunch with members of the French Senate and members of the APPG in October 2022.

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE BRITISH GROUP IPU

	Position	Commenced
Mr Rick Nimmo	Director	May 2012
Ms Dominique Rees MBE	Deputy Director	April 1998
Ms Gabriella Liberotti-Harrison	Head of Multilateral Programme	July 2008
Ms Rhiannon Edwards	International Project Manager	September 2016
Ms Fiona Burnet	International Project Manager	April 2019
Ms Holly Sloan	International Project Manager	April 2022
Mr Jack Patterson	International Project Manager	July 2022

STAFF MOVEMENTS

With acknowledgement and gratitude to BGIPU Secretariat staff who left our employment following the last Annual General Meeting.

	Position	Left Employment
Ms Alexandra Milsom	Finance & Administration Manager	November 2022
Ms Lucy Nash	International Project Manager	June 2022



**Contact details of the Secretariat of the British
Group IPU**

Postal Address

British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union
Palace of Westminster
SW1A 0AA

Office of the Secretariat

6th Floor, Millbank House
Westminster
SW1P 3LX

Telephone

00 44 (0)20 7219 3011

E-mail

bgipu@parliament.uk

Website

www.bgipu.org

