



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION
2023

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

2023

Contents

Activities of the Group

Chair's Report.....	8
Director's Report.....	13
Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the BGIPU.....	19
Officers and Executive Committee.....	31
Membership of the British Group.....	33

Financial Statements and Annual Governance

Statement

Annual Governance Statement.....	36
Statement of the Executive Committee's responsibilities.....	47
Report of the independent auditor to members of the BGIPU.....	48
Income and expenditure account.....	55
Balance sheet.....	56
Cash flow statement.....	57
Notes forming part of the financial statements.....	58

IPU Headquarters

Executive Committee of the IPU.....	66
Liaison with the International Secretariat.....	67
National Groups of the IPU.....	68
Associate Members.....	70

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

Details of funding granted in support of APPG Activities.....	72
---	----

The Secretariat of the British Group IPU

Secretariat Staff	75
Contact Details.....	76



BGIPU Chair Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP speaking at the 147th IPU Assembly in Luanda, Angola in October 2023.

ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP

Chair's Report



**Rt Hon Karen
Bradley MP**
Chair, BGIPU

Approaching the end of my first year as Chair, I am delighted to have the opportunity to report on a remarkably busy programme of BGIPU activities in the year since our last Annual General Meeting on 30 November 2022. Unlike recent years under travel restrictions imposed by the global pandemic, 2023 was the first full year of the world returning to a degree of normalcy, albeit in the context of a more dangerous and contested geopolitical landscape. Indeed, Russia's illegal acts of aggression and wanton violence against Ukraine, continue to cast a dark shadow across the security of Europe and undermine respect for rule of law globally.

In leading BGIPU, I am grateful for the support I have received from members of the Executive Committee and our broader membership in both Houses by participating in our activities and delegations. I am particularly grateful to my fellow Officers of the Group, noting we were able to hit the ground running with an early and valuable visit to IPU Headquarters in Geneva in January. This set us up well for a very productive year through early engagement with Secretary General Chungong and his team with whom we continue to enjoy excellent cooperation to the mutual benefit of both bodies. I must also highlight the excellent contribution made by the amazing BGIPU Secretariat team led by its Director, Rick Nimmo and Deputy Director Dominique Rees MBE who so effectively support us in all we do.

In a busy year since last November, increasing the rate of inter-parliamentary activity to new levels, BGIPU has hosted delegation visits to Westminster and other parts of the UK, welcoming counterparts from Colombia, Ukraine (for multiple visits), Croatia, Latvia, Armenia, Dominican Republic, Republic of Korea, Belgium, Uruguay and the Philippines with more delegations planned in the months ahead. Over the same period, we have sent delegations to

Jordan, Brazil, Serbia, Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia with more visits in the pipeline. I particularly appreciated the opportunity to lead both delegations to Brazil and Uzbekistan in my capacity as BGIPU Chair.

BGIPU also hosted a successful visit of the outgoing IPU President, Duarte Pacheco, to address the Executive Committee on 11 July. With his three-year term ending 27 October, I paid tribute to President Pacheco on our final day of the 147th IPU Assembly in Luanda by presenting him with a historic Augustus Pugin-designed encaustic tile from the Royal Gallery of the UK Parliament – a very appropriate ceramic gift for an outstanding representative of Portugal where the tile is such an important part of its culture.

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 Chile, Norway, Mexico, Argentina, Portugal, Moldova, Serbia, Australia, Jordan, Ukraine (multiple times), Vietnam and Costa Rica. There will be a range of other bilateral outward visits before the end of the financial year which will ensure BGIPU likely exceeds its targets of six inward and six outward visits mooted in our strategic plan. Overview reports of visits and other key activities are published on BGIPU's website supplementing this Annual Report.

In my capacity as BGIPU Chair, I had the honour in 2023 to lead UK delegations to the 146th and 147th IPU Assemblies in Manama, Bahrain and Luanda, Angola respectively. These Assemblies saw the IPU reach a landmark 180 members when Bahamas joined in Luanda and there were extensive general debates on “Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance” ” and “Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong institutions: SDG16” adding both the Manama Declaration and the Luanda Declaration to the expanding list of major IPU policy pronouncements. Institutionally, the adoption of a long overdue but welcome Code of Conduct and sexual harassment policy in Luanda will stand the IPU in good stead as a more transparent and accountable organisation.

Nonetheless, the main attention of delegations at both conferences was the deeply divided state of global affairs with Russia's illegal war against Ukraine passing the 600-day mark and an abhorrent terrorist attack by Hamas against Israeli civilians collapsing all hopes for peace in the Middle East with disastrous security and humanitarian consequences for Palestinian and Israeli people alike. The UK delegation has remained an active and influential partner in its 12 Plus geopolitical grouping of like-minded parliaments, as well as wider IPU circles. Most significantly, however, BGIPU can play a new major role in IPU affairs through Dan Carden MP having been elected the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians in Manama for which he deserved warm congratulations. This position also means Mr Carden MP sits *ex officio* on the IPU Executive Committee for his two-year term of office as well as advocating for the interest of the world's young MPs at a range of global events.

The awarding in Luanda of the second Cremer-Passy Prize for parliamentary excellence to the Speaker of Tuvalu, Mr Samueli Teo, capped off a year where the IPU worked to highlight the severe challenges and impacts of global climate change on the world's most vulnerable nations. This was most notably achieved through its successful "My Parliament, My Planet" campaign in the lead up to its parliamentary meeting at COP28 in the UAE which for the first time ever will be hosted in the "Green Zone" in Dubai, underscoring the key role played by parliamentarians and parliaments.

Standing committee outcomes of IPU Assemblies in 2023 have included resolutions on "Cybercrimes: The new risks to global security", "Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balance of forests" and "Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm". Also adopted in Manama was an omnibus resolution on "Raising awareness and calling for action on the serious humanitarian crises affecting the people of Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Yemen and other countries, and on the particular vulnerability of women and children". While there were

three emergency item resolutions tabled on the situation in the Middle East in Luanda, none received the two-thirds majority required for a debate due to an ideologically divided IPU membership, mirroring the deep splits evident in other major global bodies. Of most significance in Luanda was the resounding election of the Speaker of the Tanzanian Parliament, Dr Tulia Ackson, as our new IPU President, replacing Duarte Pacheco, and winning a clear majority of support in the first round of voting. I congratulated Dr Ackson in Luanda and look forward to forging a very constructive relationship between BGIPU and her Presidency, as we enjoyed with her predecessor.

In addition to IPU Assemblies, we have also sent UK delegations to a number of IPU-hosted meetings including the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations in February on “Water for People and Planet” and our Vice-Chair, Rt Hon Vicky Ford MP, led a very successful delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March in New York. In June, I led the UK delegation to Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Marrakesh while Dan Carden MP led a cross-party delegation to the Ninth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Hanoi, Vietnam in September. BGIPU sent a small delegation to the Second World Summit of the Committees of the Future in Montevideo and we are currently preparing to send UK delegates to the IPU’s parliamentary meeting at COP28 in Dubai, UAE next month.

I am grateful for the hugely important support we receive from UK Ministers and His Majesty’s Ambassadors and Embassy staff across the world and the guidance and support of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in London as facilitated by the Parliamentary Relations team. I would also like to acknowledge the importance we place on our vital relations with the many Ambassadors and diplomatic mission staff here in London who support our work, recalling our highly successful summer Diplomatic Reception in July with so many members of the diplomatic corps.

Speaking at the British Ambassador’s residence just a few weeks ago

in Luanda, I recalled the incredible legacy of our founder, Sir William Randal Cremer, who had a commitment to the principles of thoughtful arbitration and constructive dialogue in his motivations to establish with his French counterpart, Frederic Passy, the foundations of the IPU. In a world deeply divided and searching for answers, be they easy or hard, we can ill-afford to stop listening to the views of others and engaging on those issues where we can agree, but also those where we can't.

Stubborn absolutism and intolerance to alternative views is the very antithesis of why we must value and defend the IPU in these increasingly difficult and divided times. At its core, as intended by Randal Cremer, the IPU provides the world's parliamentarians with a platform for dialogue and understanding and where there is dialogue, there can be room for hope and where there is understanding there can also be a better chance for peace.

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Chair, British Group IPU
8 November 2023

Director's Report



Rick Nimmo

**Director,
BGIPU**

Approaching the end of my twelfth year as Director, I am pleased to again outline the key administrative and management issues addressed by the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) Secretariat in the year since our last AGM. I am very grateful for the continuing support of the entire BGIPU membership in both Houses of the UK Parliament in supporting our work through what has been a very busy and rewarding year of interparliamentary activity.

This period covered part of the first and second years of our three-year Strategic Business Plan 2022/23-2024/25 adopted by the Executive Committee on 7 June 2022. This plan guides our forward programme and sets the key priorities and objectives for our activities with the overall aim of advancing the parliamentary dimension of Britain's foreign relations. The business plan also reflects the IPU's own approved priorities reflected in its 2022-26 Strategy which captures many of the key global risks to our work including climate change, global inequality, erosion of public trust in politics, threats to democracy and human rights and increasing peace and security challenges in the world.

The last year has seen increasing decline in all five areas simultaneously, highlighting quite starkly the very difficult international landscape the world faces as we undertake our work. In addition to the severe challenges posed by Russia's continuing illegal invasion and wanton aggression against Ukraine, the barbaric terrorist actions of Hamas against innocent Israeli civilians thwarted the very constructive progress being made for peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the Abraham Accords.

That horrific attack on Israel, to which it rightly responded in

self-defence, has since created a conflict with dreadful humanitarian consequences for large parts of the Israeli and Palestinian populations, as well as increasing the risk of broader regional escalation. The geopolitical divisions these recent conflicts create are exacerbated by misinformation and false narratives, particularly on social media fed by conspiracists and malign state actors, promoting deep divisions and dissent in our own communities. Along with less prominent, but no less bloody, conflicts in other parts of the world including Africa and Asia, we see a world divided by ideological differences and a multilateral system struggling and ill-equipped to respond. This is actually what many of these “disrupter” nations want – a global disorder of chaos and confusion.

In such times, our efforts to enhance the role of parliamentarians in providing a channel for dialogue and cooperation takes on new significance as a key objective for BGIPU in all our bilateral and multilateral activities. By building on people to people contacts and seeking deeper understanding of the views of others, members can work constructively to better inform the foreign policy debate both in and outside the United Kingdom. It also gives our members opportunities to enhance their foreign policy experience and gain valuable skills and insights engaging face to face with counterparts. This vital aspect of our work was badly missed during the pandemic where virtual meetings provided a mere stop gap necessity, not a viable long-term replacement for meaningful inter-parliamentary engagement.

In addition to its policy considerations, which provide an important context for our work, the strategic business plan also sets the key benchmarks to enable us to judge success. The quantitative level of activity is important and BGIPU is well on track to exceed its projected target of six inward, six outward and requisite number of IPU Assemblies and conferences for the year. Clearly, the quality of these interactions is also key, albeit often more difficult to judge.

There has been a series of outward visits this year to a diverse range of countries (Brazil, Serbia, Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia to date) where

each nation was undergoing a period of significant political, economic or social transition or reform. Through such visits, we aim to provide our members with a window into the pivotal changes happening globally in different national contexts. Similarly, the diverse nature of inward visits from Europe, Latin America and Asia provides a breadth of engagements which can highlight both common, but also sometimes differing, political challenges facing many of our parliamentary counterparts worldwide.

In terms of its financial and administrative tasks, the BGIPU Secretariat has also recently commenced discussions with our funding bodies in both Houses on a new Financial Memorandum (FM) to be agreed and in place by the start of the next financial year in April 2024, subject to Executive Committee agreement.

This new FM will also reflect consideration of some suggestions made in the course of the Internal Audit carried out by the House of Lords Audit team just prior to summer recess which looked at how BGIPU provides “value for money” in delivering its programme and what extent of support this requires in terms of Houses services. This audit conducted by funding bodies every 5 or so years, importantly concluded it found “substantial assurance” about the adequacy and effectiveness of BGIPU’s controls to manage risk and exercise control of its parliamentary grant funding in delivering key objectives. This result, combined with a clean bill of health in our annual external audit by Kreston Reeves which happened in parallel, is a credit to the hard work and dedication of Gabriella Liberotti-Harrison in her first full year as Finance and Administration Manager where she has made a truly outstanding contribution.

In support of our 2024-25 Request for Funding submitted in September 2023, I undertook as Director a detailed review of our key programme and management achievements against all Strategic Business Plan objectives. This review highlighted key successes for the year including full compliance with BGIPU governance rules, strong rates of participation from members of both Houses in our work, continuing

excellent financial management outcomes and highly effective human resources processes, including prompt recruitment to fill staffing gaps which arose over the year.

In membership promotion events we arranged two member outreach stands in Portcullis House as well as the summer diplomatic reception and a 2023 Pride event. BGIPU also hosted its annual charity quiz night in support of an anti-slavery charity, Arise Foundation, with the Chair, Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, as quizmaster. We have continued to co-host policy outreach events with key partner organisations such as the Parliamentary Human Rights Group (PHRG), the BBC World Service, the World Food Programme, ICRC, Amnesty International and other non-government and civil society bodies. There has also been a very successful series of monthly meetings on genocide prevention in cooperation with the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and the Coalition for Genocide Response which marked the 75th anniversary of the Genocide Convention.

In its eleventh 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 X, formerly known as Twitter, extensively to provide regular and timely reporting on activities as well as a curated feed of key international relations-related commentary and articles as part of our outreach work. Now very well established as the second most popular inter-parliamentary relations channel on X (after the IPU's own channel), BGIPU has over 3,700 followers and is approaching 44,000 tweets since 2012.

In terms of its planning and preparation for bilateral exchanges, the BGIPU Secretariat continues to receive very positive feedback from MPs and Peers and visiting delegations alike. We also enjoy very good cooperation with key stakeholders such as the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in London and Ambassadors and UK Mission staff abroad. We also have extensive dealings with

relevant London-based embassies in terms of planning and preparing bilateral visits and overall foreign policy engagement, hosting many Ambassadors to events and receptions through the year, including our annual Summer Diplomatic Reception.

BGIPU maintains close engagement with the other inter-parliamentary bodies, particularly our sister body, the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association where we will farewell our dear friend, Chief Executive Jon Davies, next month. BGIPU also has regular and mutually beneficial engagement with country based and thematic All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG) supporting a number of inward APPG-hosted visits through a dedicated funding mechanism.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretariat enjoys close partnership and cooperation with the Heads of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Offices (IPROs) of both Houses and I acknowledge with thanks the support of our current budget holders, Edward Beale (who recently replaced Lynn Gardner who we also thank) and Susie Latta. There is a very close and constructive relationship throughout the year with the Speakers' Offices of both Houses, particularly the House of Commons Speaker's External Affairs team led by Deputy Chief of Staff, David Clark and through Deputy Head, Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Zana Paul in Lord Speaker's Office.

BGIPU also depends on the support and cooperation of many other staff across both Houses, particularly committee staff working in the international relations, trade and development policy areas, as well as the doorkeepers, security personnel, catering teams, the porters, and other dedicated staff who ensure we are well supported in welcoming our international guests visiting the Palace of Westminster.

In particular, I would like to express sincere gratitude to all members of the Executive Committees for their guidance and support of the BGIPU Secretariat throughout 2023, both here in London and on

delegations, meetings and conferences overseas. I am particularly grateful to the Chair, Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, who has continued to provide very effective and high-profile leadership to BGIPU, both among other IPU members in 12 Plus committees and at IPU Assemblies and conferences, but also in raising the organisation's profile even further here in Westminster. I must also pay tribute to The Rt Hon the Baroness D'Souza CMG who while finishing her term as our Vice-Chair (House of Lords) will continue to hold a key role as one of BGIPU's Honorary Vice-Presidents.

I reserve my final acknowledgement for the commitment shown by all the incredible members of our BGIPU Secretariat team who are so brilliantly led and supervised by Deputy Director Dominique Rees MBE who celebrated a landmark 25th year in BGIPU this year in April 2023. I am also very grateful to the hard work and dedication of current and recent past staff throughout the year, noting in particular the excellent contributions of Jack Patterson and Fiona Burnet as International Project Managers with both of them departing to pursue major career and life opportunities earlier this year.

Rick Nimmo
Director, British Group IPU
8 November 2023

Minutes of the 2022-23 Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union

Wednesday 30 November 2022

The Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union was held on Wednesday 30 November 2022. Mr Speaker, The Right 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, I now call the Annual General Meeting to order, which I have just done by ringing the bell. I extend a warm welcome to everybody.

I hope you have had some time to review the 2022 Annual Report, which was published on the BGIPU website on 9 November 2022. There are hard copies available here for those who would like one. Please note that an election ballot is taking place today downstairs in W3 until 4pm. The new Executive Committee will be dealt with under item 8.

Item 2: Apologies for absence

MR SPEAKER:

Do we have any apologies for absence?

RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:

There are 19 apologies for absence.

MR SPEAKER:

We will just take them without going through the names.

Item 3: Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 8 December 2021

MR SPEAKER:

We are now required to adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 8 December 2021. These are printed on pages 18 to 32 of the 2022 Annual Report. May I have a proposer and seconder that the Minutes are adopted as a true record of the meeting?

(Proposed by Rt Hon the Lord Dholakia and seconded by Ian Liddell-Grainger MP.)

All those in favour please raise your hand. As there is nobody against, I shall now sign the Minutes as a true record.

Item 4: Matters arising from the minutes

MR SPEAKER:

We now come to matters arising from those minutes.

DIRECTOR:

None has been advised.

Item 5: Adoption of the Annual Report for 2022

MR SPEAKER:

I now invite the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Americas and Caribbean, David Rutley MP, to propose the adoption of the 2022 Annual Report. Welcome back, David. We've missed you on that Front Bench, but you are back with us.

DAVID RUTLEY MP:

Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is good to see you here. This week there have been two UQs and now an AGM. Our relationship is strong and solid, so thank you very much, but we cannot go on meeting like this.

MR SPEAKER:

Oh, I think we might.

DAVID RUTLEY MP:

That's what I am worried about. I am happy to propose the formal adoption of the Annual Report. It is good to be here to speak as well, to show the cross-party nature of the activity we are involved in.

Let me begin by thanking my friend and colleague, Harriett Baldwin MP, for being such a dedicated Chair. Your mastery of Zoom calls across time zones kept the show on the road during the pandemic; we are grateful for it. It was particularly important in bringing together colleagues from right across Latin America, Asia and the Pacific in the run-up to COP26. That is just one example of your tireless work to build solidarity with parliamentarians around the world, nurturing democracy and promoting British interests and values.

You have also kept Russia's barbaric attack on Ukraine at the forefront of peoples' minds, particularly through your instrumental role in pushing through emergency resolutions at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Assemblies in Indonesia and Rwanda. So, a big thank you for all the work you have done and a big round of applause, please. I wish you continued success with the Treasury Committee, where you will be another fantastic Chair—good luck with all of that.

I was delighted to see the BGIPU demonstrate great support and hospitality for our Ukrainian parliamentary colleagues when you hosted them this week—thank you. I know some of you have recently returned from the IPU Assembly in Kigali, where you joined parliamentarians from 120 countries for important conversations on peace, gender equality and sustainable development. I commend those efforts, together with your work to address grave violations of human rights in Myanmar, Iran—often on Iran—and Afghanistan, to name just a few countries.

You have also played an important role at COP27, identifying ways for parliamentarians to work together towards a more sustainable world. Your engagement with fellow democracies on those crucial issues, and many more, helps build friendships and deeper relationships to boost efforts to address those challenges.

I am grateful to the officers, the Executive Committee, the broader membership across both Houses and the BGIPU Secretariat for their dedicated support. Thanks to you all for your wide-ranging efforts to support diplomacy and champion British values, which are dearly held in many other parts of the world.

Under your new Chair—by the way, I have never felt so warmly welcomed before this meeting. There must be an election or something going on. It was a very warm welcome, so I am grateful for that, and I look forward to our future work together over the year ahead. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

Thank you. I will hand over to the Shadow Minister.

STEPHEN DOUGHTY:

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you, Chair, and all members of the BGIPU.

This year has illustrated just how critical the work of the BGIPU is, not only when forging and sustaining robust ties between parliamentarians across the world, but in devising ways in which we can work together for the common good. It would be an understatement to say that this year has come with global challenges, which to so many were inconceivable 12 months ago. The work of the IPU has been integral in facing them, not least with regard to Ukraine.

We have seen war scourging our own continent; democracy and basic human rights being systematically threatened across the world; and our planet facing the existential threat of climate change. In the whole of the IPU's 133-year history, its impact and influence have never counted for more at such a time of crises. Fundamentally, it provides us all as parliamentarians with tangible and vital opportunities to better understand each other, and to coalesce around shared goals and make progress towards them.

We have regretfully seen a trend towards democratic backsliding and authoritarianism, and those trends are affecting millions of people across the world. On behalf of the Opposition, we are fully committed to working on a cross-party basis and through the IPU, and indeed internationally with international partners, to defend the values that unite all of us in this room: democracy, the rule of law, multilateralism and the protection of human rights.

In my role as the Labour Shadow Minister for Europe and North America and the overseas territories, I have had the pleasure of seeing the work of the IPU and taking part in it at first hand during the last year. I have been able to meet foreign leaders, ambassadors, Ministers and parliamentarians—relations that enable me to fulfil my role as a parliamentarian.

Earlier this year I joined the Chair on a fantastic delegation to Kosovo, which fully illustrated to me the importance of the IPU. I am following up a relationship I made on that visit with somebody who is visiting the UK Parliament today. Of course, as has been mentioned, in light of Russia's heinous war of aggression against the people of Ukraine, the IPU has been critical to building those links with Ukrainian parliamentarians who are doing an immensely difficult and crucial job. I met some of them this morning, and the IPU has played a crucial role in enabling those relationships to go forward at an absolutely critical time.

As has been mentioned, the BGIPU has been a facilitator in the UK representation in Kigali, at COP27, the WTO, the global conference on migration, the UN, the young parliamentarians conference and the HLPF. There have been bilateral delegations to and from a huge range of countries from Madagascar to Colombia, Jordan and many more.

This year it is a particular pleasure to be in this room to celebrate Pride Month, with activists and leaders from across the LBGTQ+ community. Thanks to them, too. In that spirit, I want to second the report today and conclude my remarks by thanking our outgoing Chair, Harriett, who I am sure we all agree has done fantastic work, and our director, Rick, and all the staff of the BGIPU for their invaluable contribution. On a personal level, there has been amazing support on trips, particularly when complications emerge, as they often do on international delegations, and they are calm and steadfast. Without the IPU, our international standing as a country would not be what it is today. I welcome the incoming Executive Committee, and I second the report today.

MR SPEAKER:

The 2022 Annual Report has now been proposed and seconded. Is it agreed that we adopt the report? All those in favour please raise your hand. Anybody against? We will adopt the report.

Item 6: Presentation of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 by Alex Sobel MP, Treasurer

MR SPEAKER:

We now come to the presentation of the Financial Statements—we have moved to item 6. Alex, I congratulate you on your work because I understand this is your last statement to the group.

ALEX SOBEL MP:

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Just to preface this statement, I would like to thank Rick, the IPU staff and Harriett, who I had a coterminous term of office with. Five years ago, I was elected to the BGIPU for the first time as a fairly green Back-Bench MP and now I feel able to communicate with Members of Parliament globally on the world stage, and that is entirely down to the BGIPU. I want to thank the BGIPU and encourage anyone here who has not already to become

involved.

I present the Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2022, shown on pages 39 to 67 of our 2022 Annual Report, which covers the 2021-22 financial year. Kreston Reeves LLP conducted the audit again this year, and I would like to welcome Anne Dwyer and Emily Elphick, who are sat at the back, representing Kreston Reeves here today.

On page 50 of the 2022 Annual Report, our auditors report their unqualified opinion of the Financial Statements. The Audit Committee met on 12 July 2022 and recommended that the Executive Committee approve the Financial Statements, which the Chair and Treasurer signed as agreed at the Executive Committee meeting on 19 July 2022.

The income and expenditure account appears on page 58. Income increased from £879,906 to £1,242,372, with the Group receiving £1,242,270 of grant-in-aid, which was 90% of the available amount compared to £879,580 in the previous year, which would represent 65%. Bank interest decreased from £282 to £58 due to a decrease in interest rates in that period. Overall expenditure increased by £238,903 from £956,996 to £1,195,899.

BGIPU's annual subscription to the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva, charged in Swiss francs, was 521,600—the same as in the previous year. The sum paid by each member country of the IPU is based on the UN scale of contributions, so it can vary year on year. The IPU subscription was paid as soon as funds permitted in February 2022, but because this relates to a calendar year, only one quarter of the 2022 payment is reflected in the 2021-22 income and expenditure account, while the remaining three quarters are treated as a prepayment consistent with prior years. The sterling amount, 2021-22, was £429,586.

The Twelve Plus group subscription, charged in euros, also remained the same in 2022. The sterling amount decreased from £1,411 to £1,320 due to a variation in the exchange rate. In terms of programme expenditure, I can confirm that a total of three IPU Assemblies fell within the 21-22 financial year. Due to ongoing travel restrictions at the beginning of the financial year, the 142nd IPU Assembly, hosted by the IPU Secretariat in Geneva, took place online and therefore incurred no cost.

The 143rd IPU Assembly took place in Madrid in November 2021 and the 144th IPU Assembly took place in Nusa Dua, Indonesia in March 2022. The total cost of these Assemblies was £110,299. A total of five face-to-face IPU conferences, including the World Speakers' Conference in Vienna, the pre-COP meeting in Rome and the UN Parliamentary Hearing in New York, took place during the '21-22 financial year. The total cost was £63,978.

Twelve multilateral conferences took place online, incurring no cost. Despite the easing of Covid-19 restrictions in the second half of the '21-22 financial year, BGIPU's bilateral programme was severely affected and it was not possible to arrange any outward delegation, so there was no expenditure under this heading. However, a busy bilateral programme took place with virtual meetings taking place between UK members and their parliamentary counterparts throughout the financial year. Three of these virtual bilateral meetings incurred a cost due to interpretation requirements.

In February 2022, the first and only inward delegation visit of the '21-22 financial year took place by a parliamentary delegation from France at a cost of £10,237. In November 2021, BGIPU hosted a parliamentary meeting at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference—COP26—in Glasgow. The total spend on the event, not including the participation costs of the UK delegation, which were covered under IPU conferences, was £64,134. Over 200 participants attended the meeting held in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

Funding was claimed by three all-party parliamentary country groups at a total cost of £6,890. Groups from Greece, Mexico and Armenia were able to carry out parliamentary exchanges due to funding from the BGIPU. The cost of staff salaries and related expenses decreased from £507,609 to £475,637. This was in the main due to the departure of an international project manager in September 2021. The decision was taken not to fill this position until April 2022, when programme activity resumed at full capacity. Staff numbers are now back up to eight members. Due to the public sector pay freeze, and as a result of the House of Commons and Digital Service pay awards 2021-22 decision, which was circulated in July 2021, BGIPU staff did not receive a pay rise in the 2021-22 financial year.

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. Even though it was not possible to reach pre-pandemic levels of outreach activity, some events, including a reception to mark the International Day of Democracy, were achieved by the end of the financial year resulting in an increase in spend in this category of £1,851. The £7,000 funding contribution to the Parliamentary Human Rights Group is also included under this item as the Members' briefing provided under that co-operation agreement directly supports and complements their interparliamentary engagement. This payment has remained the same as agreed in 2020. General hospitality costs and depreciation have remained in line with last year. Audit fees and insurance expenses have increased marginally, while sundry expenses, including bank charges, giftware purchases and other office costs, have decreased.

The balance sheet on page 59 shows net assets have increased from £746,005 to £792,478. Fixed assets have decreased slightly from £11,647 to £8,772. Prepayments also decreased slightly from £335,735 to £322,523. Cash reserves increased by £109,240, from £432,336 to £541,576. The cash flow statement on page 60 shows the overall surplus for the year was £46,473. The financial memorandum concluded in September 2020 was in effect throughout the 2021-22 financial year. The Annual Report containing these Financial Statements is made public on the BGIPU website prior to the AGM. Here concludes my report

MR SPEAKER:

We should all say thank you. Any questions? Marvellous. That proves it was a great report. It did not even leave a gap for a question. Rick, have you got something to add at this stage?

DIRECTOR:

No, I do not think so.

Item 7: Re-appointment of Auditors

MR SPEAKER:

Okay. We now come to the reappointment of the auditors for the current year. It is proposed that our current auditors, Reeves & Co LLP, be reappointed. May I have a proposer and a seconder?

(Proposed by Baroness D'Souza and seconded by Chris Law MP.)

I thank Reeves & Co, who are duly reappointed as the group's auditors for the next financial year.

Item 8: Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for 2022/23

Mr SPEAKER:

We move on to the BGIPU elections. I take it that the AGM is willing to confirm the election of Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Group, as published on the website, and notified to all members by the Secretariat in an email on the 23rd November. I can also confirm that three further, rather than two, acceptances have been received, from the Right Hon. Jeremy Hunt, the Right Hon. Alok Sharma and the Right Hon. James Cleverley. 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, there are some members standing unopposed, including three Officer posts as already advised to members. I am very pleased therefore to confirm that the following Officers and Executive Committee members are elected unopposed: as new Vice-Chair, replacing the Right Hon. Dame Diana Johnson MP, congratulations to Alex Sobel MP; replacing him as Honorary Treasurer is Dan Carden MP; and, for the third year, Vice-Chair for the House of Lords is Right Hon. Baroness D'Souza.

Standing unopposed as Committee members for the Peers, Lord Gilbert of Panteg, Baroness Hooper, Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate, Lord Dubs, Lord Cromwell and the Right Hon. Lord Dholakia. Voting is underway for the Government party position of Chair, Vice-Chair and members, as well as Labour members and SNP members.

We need two volunteers who are not candidates in this election who are willing to stay on after to be tellers. I have been advised that Nigel Evans has already offered his services—

DAVID RUTLEY MP:

Be careful!

MR SPEAKER:

Don't part with your money too soon. We need an Opposition member to volunteer to join him. Don't get killed in the rush, but can somebody come forward? The final election result will be confirmed following this AGM and will be posted on the website.

Item 9: Vote of thanks recognising the contribution of the outgoing Chair of the group

MR SPEAKER:

I would now like to move the thanks in recognition of the outgoing Chair, Harriett Baldwin. Harriett has been a very active and successful BGIPU Chair. In the first half of her term, we only saw each other on Zoom, which might be a benefit in itself. Of course, it has been a difficult time. You've led delegations to assemblies in Madrid, Nusa Dua and Kigali, along with championing important issues such as the international rule of law, defending Ukraine and broadening the United Kingdom's influence in the IPU, as well as, quite rightly, lobbying the United States about getting themselves back here. We are still waiting and still hopeful, but you certainly did a very good job—I am sure that Speaker Pelosi could think of nothing else after we bent her ear on that. I am sure that we would all say what a great Chair you have been, Harriett. We look forward to the same success at the Treasury Committee. Thank you for all that you do and the contributions you have made.

Item 10: Speech by the Chair

MR SPEAKER:

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to take the Floor. Thank you, Harriett.

HARRIETT BALDWIN MP:

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I know that there is about to be a vote, or several votes, so I will be mercifully brief. I want to take this opportunity to say what an enormous privilege it has been to be the Chair of this amazing organisation over the past the years. Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and the constitution requires that I step down at this point, but I do so having had the most wonderful

opportunity to work with so many colleagues. I want to thank all of you for the energy and enthusiasm that you have put in to hosting and taking part in delegations. As we have heard, for the first two years of my tenure, those were entirely virtual, but this year we have more than made up for it, with a range of different, very valuable interactions, both outbound and inbound. Indeed, we had to hand over Gabon to the CPA in a full ceremony, as they have become members of the Commonwealth. It has been an absolutely remarkable period. I will, of course, finish by thanking everyone who has helped this to happen. We have been very much helped by the amazing team that we have here. I want to ask everyone to give them a very warm round of applause. And that's it! *Sayonara, do svidanya, au revoir*—I think we are about to vote.

MR SPEAKER:

The Labour party are abstaining on the first vote, I have been told, so we will see whether we can whip through it.

Item 11: Any other business

MR SPEAKER:

May I confirm with the Secretariat that there has been no written notification, in accordance with the rules, of any other matters of business to be raised?

RICK NIMMO:

That is correct.

MR SPEAKER:

That is good.

Item 12: Closure of meeting

MR SPEAKER:

In closing the meeting, I want to say thanks to everybody involved in the IPU, and none more so than the staff. It really is a thankless task to work with Members sometimes—not the executive officers, but I know how easy it is to take you for granted, and we would certainly never dream of doing that. It is good to keep the pressure on the Americans to rejoin. I am going to say thank you to the President of the IPU internationally, Mr Duarte Pacheco. When we went to Jakarta, I went up to the Russians—there were three from my office and 67

from Russia. They said, “It’s not a problem. We’ve invaded nobody. We were invited”, and we just had to remind them about what is happening in Ukraine and the fact that somehow they want to rewrite history, but they were not allowed. I have got to thank the Chair for supporting me on that one. Thank you everyone.

Officers and Executive Committee

Following the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 30 November 2022, 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 Rishi Sunak MP (Prime Minister)

BGIPU Vice-Presidents:

Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP

Rt Hon the Lord Hammond of Runnymede

Rt Hon Vicky Ford MP

Rt Hon the Baroness Hayman GBE

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

Rt Hon the Baroness D'Souza CMG

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP*

Rt Hon the Lord Fowler

Rt Hon Theresa May MP

Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP

(*Until his resignation in June 2023)

Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP

Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP

Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP

Dan Carden MP

Preet Gill MP

Rt Hon David Lammy MP

Lisa Nandy MP

Kate Osamor MP

Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP

Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP

Meetings of the Executive Committee

Since the last Annual General Meeting on 30 November 2022 there have been five Executive Committee meetings in 2023: Tuesday 17 January, Tuesday 7 March, Tuesday 23 May, Tuesday 11 July and Tuesday 31 October (virtually).

Meetings of the Audit Committee

Since the last Annual General Meeting on 30 November 2022 there have been two Audit Committee deliberations in 2023: Tuesday 28 February and one subsequent meeting on Tuesday 4 July.

Officers & Executive Committee (As elected 30 November 2022)

Chair:

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP

Vice-Chairs:

Rt Hon Vicky Ford MP

Alex Sobel MP

Rt Hon the Baroness D'Souza CMG

Treasurer:

Dan Carden MP

Executive Committee:

Conservative Party

Harriett Baldwin MP

Bob Blackman MP

Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP

Flick Drummond MP

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP

Pauline Latham MP

Mark Menzies MP

Rt Hon Shailesh Vara MP

Martin Vickers MP

Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale MP OBE

*co-opted +

The Lord Gilbert of Panteg

The Baroness Hooper CMG

The Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate

+(Stood down following appointment to Government in May 2023)

Labour Party

Wayne David MP

Sir Mark Hendrick MP

Kim Johnson MP

Kate Osamor MP

Zarah Sultana MP *co-opted

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

[^](Stood down following resignation from SNP in October 2023)

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 8 2023, total membership of the group was 1,435.



IPU President Duarte Pacheco meeting Mr Speaker in July 2023 (photo credit to Jessica Taylor.)

Members and guest speakers at the Pride event co-hosted with BGIPU, the APPG for LGBT+ Global Rights, APPG for HIV/AIDS and Amnesty International in June 2023.



Meeting on the Yazidi Genocide as part of the Genocide Series in collaboration with the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute and Coalition for Genocide Response in July 2023.

Fabian Hamilton MP giving a tour to the Delegation from the Dominican Republic in May 2023.





UK Members at the 146th IPU Assembly in Manama, Bahrain in March 2023.

BGIPU Officers with the IPU Secretary General Mr Martin Chungong at the IPU Headquarters in Geneva in January 2023.



UK members meeting with the Minister for Sports and his officials as part of a bilateral visit to Saudi Arabia in September 2023.

Delegation in Belgrade as part of a bilateral visit to Serbia in July 2023.



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

**Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement
Year ended 31 March 2023**

**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 aims of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue. Following an amendment to the BGIPU Rules in December 2014, all members of both Houses are considered to be full members of 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). 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 to advance 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 policy and project management support staff.

The Honorary Treasurer as Accounting Officer is responsible for ensuring a sound system of internal controls is maintained supporting BGIPU's aims and key objectives whilst appropriately safeguarding its public funds and assets consistent with the Financial Memorandum

(FM) agreed with both Houses of Parliament for 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 any operational or policy decisions.

The Director is responsible to the Officers and the Executive Committee for the implementation of their decisions and effective day to day 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 Audit Committee annually 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 advises if the scope of the external audit needs adjustment.

Arrangements for funding inter-parliamentary groups in the UK Parliament have evolved over many years. While BGIPU funding originally came from member contributions and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, subsequently delivered as direct grant in aid from HM Treasury. This changed around 2007/8 and for the past fifteen or so years, funding has been provided directly by both Houses of Parliament with 70 percent of the annually agreed total 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.

As noted above, 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 reviewed.

In subsequent years, addressing reputational and operational risk matters on that basis of increasing risks on the parliamentary estate, BGIPU adopted a zero-tolerance policy on bullying and harassment, setting clear expectations regarding members' conduct on delegations, treatment of Secretariat staff and overall expectations regarding behaviour in the context of BGIPU activities.

Work of the Executive Committee

The BGIPU Executive Committee met on five occasions during the 2022-23 Financial Year on 7 June 2022, 19 July 2022, 1 November 2022, 17 January 2023 and 7 March 2023. The Audit Committee convened on 12 July 2022 to recommend approval of final accounts and met again 28 February 2023 to review the auditors' Letter of Engagement and supporting documents, and consider the 2023 Risk Management Strategy, including updating the Risk Register. The Annual General Meeting had taken place on Wednesday 30 November to elect a new Executive Committee for 2022/23.

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 (gradually increasing travel beyond past levels as the world moved to a post-COVID-19 period) and successfully resumed tried and tested planning and implementation processes. Consistent with the requirements of the FM, the Director submitted to the funding bodies in September 2022, the annual review of the Executive Committee-approved 3-year Strategic Business Plan adopted 7 June 2022. BGIPU also submitted detailed forward planning budgets for the next three financial years in support of BGIPU's 2023/24 Request for Funding. In addition, the Executive Committee approved a detailed Forward Programme for 2023/24 drawing upon the Strategic Business Plan and making judgements regarding operational requirements, against a backdrop of increasingly complex geopolitical challenges.

Under the overall management of the Director, supported by the specialised human resource advisory 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, however, recognising unique constraints on staff recruitment and retention, the Executive Committee enhanced Secretariat 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 activity increased and travel restrictions diminished, the Secretariat continued to provide timely activity reporting through its website, in addition to using social media and electronic circulars to make the Group's work more accessible and cost-effective. Recognising the need for professional and personal development, staff training including boosting information technology, communications and design skills, financial management and budget training remained a priority in addition to general team-building activities and support for specialised language training.

Risks

BGIPU's mechanisms and procedures are designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than eliminate all risk 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 mitigating risks to the achievement of the organisation's objectives through evaluating the likelihood and impact of those risks should they eventuate. For example, unprecedented global events in the form of the COVID-19 outbreak blocked some of BGIPU's regular interparliamentary exchange activity for around two years. Nonetheless, activity planning and business continuity arrangements were effective in allowing many operations to continue through that period on an alternative basis (generally virtually). This also ensured that better than full levels of activity could be resumed

once travel restrictions eased. So, while this unique period in BGIPU's history could not be predicted, existing mechanisms and innate flexibility more than allowed the organisation to cope, both because of the resilience of staff and the keenness of members to resume activity quickly.

Capacity to Handle Risk

BGIPU's overall approach to risk management is based on the judgement and authority of the Executive Committee, including drawing on the experience and advice of the Director and other Secretariat staff. As far as possible, BGIPU employees are encouraged to take full ownership of their work and be responsible for managing their own part of the risk control process and are appropriately informed, guided and trained to manage aspects of risk relevant to their responsibilities. This includes close attention to ensuring probity and due diligence in the careful expenditure of public monies.

In one example, mindful of the potential for disruption to the availability of officers as financial signatories due to dissolution or changes to banking requirements (as also later happened during the pandemic), BGIPU's ability to pay staff or suppliers was a recognised vulnerability anticipated and raised with the Executive Committee for action in 2019. Appropriate changes made in October that year, ensured payment functions could be maintained in a variety of circumstances, by granting higher level signing authorities to the most senior Secretariat staff in place of key office holders. While this created some risks, they were deemed reasonable given the otherwise insurmountable problem of officers being unavailable to approve bank payments during periods of dissolution or other disruption. As it turned out, this change in finance delegations was instrumental in BGIPU still being able to maintain its operations through much of 2020 and 2021 when physical contact between Officers and staff were suspended due to the pandemic.

BGIPU encourages a working environment based on teamwork and two-way dialogue, convening regular staff meetings and other

opportunities for close 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 February 2023). 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 considered and addressed.

Risk management is embedded in the organisation through Executive Committee oversight, regular staff reporting and commitment to best practice, close review of expenditure and regular scrutiny of the Risk Register by the Audit Committee. Novel issues can arise from time to time and when they do, the Executive Committee will require additional work to be undertaken, as was the case with concerns around BGIPU's legal standing and treatment in parliament in 2021 or on BGIPU's cooperation and financial support for APPGs raised as a potential risk in early 2023. Responsiveness to such concerns, when raised, and subsequent action to mitigate remains key in ensuring risk preparedness.

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 a long-established “death in service” pension scheme, were resolved through HMRC and the Secretariat working to address compliance risks although as relevant regulatory and employment conditions often change, BGIPU is often at the mercy of others to inform them of such changes given it is excluded from any consultations, such as in the case of pay awards agreed for House of Commons staff and then simply applied to BGIPU staff.

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 provided a long- term planning process combined with appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to put BGIPU in a stronger position to assess its effectiveness against key objectives. 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 means it must 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 mutually supportive and consultative relationship with the funding bodies in both Houses is essential and should attract higher priority withing both Houses after a period of flux and significant change in how they now manage interparliamentary relations based on reforms adopted since 2021.

Notwithstanding the serious geopolitical uncertainties confronting the world, BGIPU has made strong progress in resuming the fullest extent of its activities in the year or so since we entered the post-pandemic period. 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, like the IPU Secretariat in Geneva and the FCDO, I assess that the BGIPU Executive Committee and Secretariat are undertaking their roles and responsibilities to an appropriate level of effectiveness. This includes regarding the cost-effective use of public monies, its responsibilities to staff as a good employer and its overall management of operational risk against a backdrop of major global challenges.

Mindful of the monitoring role played by BGIPU's funding bodies in both Houses, I assess BGIPU's governance mechanisms to be robust, allowing for appropriate management oversight by the Executive Committee, including through combined audit scrutiny and risk management roles of the Audit Committee. Reflecting upon a history of positive external audit outcomes, I am confident that appropriate measures in place to ensure the Group's programme of work is well-targeted and represents an effective use of the public monies provided for these specific purposes. 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 anticipated changes in its operating environment, fulfils the expectations of its funding bodies and meets all its financial, administrative and programme obligations in a fully satisfactory manner. Indeed, in the face of significant challenges in recent years, I am assured that BGIPU remains a robust and responsive body in meeting the requirements of its members and will continue to do so, well into the future.

(Signed)

D Carden MP

Honorary Treasurer

11 July 2023

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 2023 which are intended by it to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and of the deficit/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 2023 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 2023, 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

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 financial statements or a material misstatement of the other

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.

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 47, 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 throughout 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, using automated data analytics, 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.

(Signed)

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

For and on behalf of

Kreston Reeves LLP

Statutory Auditor & Chartered Accountants

Date: 18 July 2023

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023	2022 £
Income			
Grant in aid		1,407,906	1,242,270
Donations / Subscriptions received from members		39	44
Interest receivable		2,472	58
		<u>1,410,417</u>	<u>1,242,372</u>
Expenditure			
Subscriptions		438,159	430,982
Conferences, IPU seminars and outward delegations		453,378	174,277
Inward delegations, BGIPU seminars and days in Parliament		135,796	76,006
All party groups		8,843	6,890
Salaries, national insurance and other staff costs	3	500,874	475,637
Printing, stationery and publications		2,091	2,141
Postage and telephone		-	44
IT Consumables		1,199	786
Member services and events in the UK		14,679	9,867
Audit fee for the audit of these financial statements		8,448	8,064
Insurance		6,009	6,050
General hospitality		3,677	169
Other expenses		2,926	2,110
Depreciation of fixed assets	5	2,757	2,876
		<u>1,578,836</u>	<u>1,195,899</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	9	<u>(168,419)</u>	<u>46,473</u>
Opening reserves		792,478	746,005
Closing reserves	9	<u>624,059</u>	<u>792,478</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 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
Fixed assets	5		6,015		8,772
Current assets					
Debtors	6	6,133		26,050	
Prepayments and accrued income	6	377,283		322,523	
Cash at bank and in hand	7	275,669		541,576	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
		649,058		890,149	
Current liabilities					
Creditors	8	(41,041)		(106,443)	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
Net current assets			618,044		783,706
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
Net assets			624,059		792,478
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
Financed by:					
General fund	9		624,059		792,478
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
			624,059		792,478
			<hr/>	<hr/>	

Notes 1 to 13 form part of the financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the undersigned and authorised for issue on 11 July 2023

(Signed)
D Carden MP
Honorary Treasurer
11 July 2023

(Signed)
Rt Hon K Bradley MP
Chair
11 July 2023

Cash flow statement

at 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flow from operating activities		
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year	(168,419)	46,473
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	(2,472)	(58)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(34,843)	(12,838)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(65,402)	72,730
Depreciation charge	2,757	2,875
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(268,379)</u>	<u>109,182</u>
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest received	2,472	58
Net cash flow from investing activities	<u>2,472</u>	<u>58</u>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(265,907)	109,240
Cash at the beginning of the year	541,576	432,336
Cash at bank and in hand at the end of the year	<u>275,669</u>	<u>541,576</u>

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

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 36.

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 2023 of £1,407,906 (2022: £1,242,270) 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 (2022: 8).

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	378,264	359,311
Social security costs	45,124	41,070
Pension costs	51,629	50,661
Other costs	25,857	24,595
	<u>500,874</u>	<u>475,637</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	-	-	(255)	(4,394)	(4,649)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At end of year	3,183	890	501	30,125	34,699
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation					
At beginning of year	-	-	656	29,920	30,576
Charge for year	-	-	19	2,738	2,757
Disposals	-	-	(255)	(4,394)	(4,649)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At end of year	-	-	420	28,264	28,684
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2023	3,183	890	81	1,861	6,015
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2022	3,183	890	100	4,559	8,772
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

6 Debtors: amounts receivable within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments	377,283	322,523
Other debtors	6,133	26,050
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	383,416	348,573
	<hr/>	<hr/>

7 Cash at bank and in hand

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest earning bank deposit accounts	264,383	530,569
Non-interest earning bank current account	10,000	10,000
Cash in hand	1,286	1,007
	<u>275,669</u>	<u>541,576</u>

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	2,707	79,906
Accruals and prepaid income	15,233	10,205
Social security and other taxes	14,443	13,404
Other Creditors	8,658	2,928
	<u>41,041</u>	<u>106,443</u>

9 Reserves

General fund

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

	General Fund £
Balance at 31 March 2022	792,478
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(168,419)
Balance at 31 March 2023	<u>624,059</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 £51,629 (2022: £50,661). At the year end, £3,993 (2022: £3,851) 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 £17,622 (2022: £11,854). At the year-end, £Nil (2022: £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:

Dr. T. Ackson (Tanzania)	October 2026
--------------------------	--------------

Members:

Ms. B. Argimón (Uruguay)	October 2024
--------------------------	--------------

Dr. A. R. AlNuaimi (UAE)	April 2025
--------------------------	------------

Mr. A. Kharchi (Algeria)	October 2025
--------------------------	--------------

Mr. A. Almodóbar (Spain)	October 2025
--------------------------	--------------

Ms. D. T. Avgerinopoulou (Greece)	October 2025
-----------------------------------	--------------

Mr. L. J. de Nicolaÿ (France)	October 2026
-------------------------------	--------------

Ms. A. Sarangi (India)	October 2026
------------------------	--------------

Ms I.K.N. Sabangu (DRC)	March 2027
-------------------------	------------

Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan)	October 2027
--------------------------------	--------------

Ms. N.B. Kashumba-Mutti (Zambia)	October 2027
----------------------------------	--------------

Mrs. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland)	October 2027
------------------------------------	--------------

Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia)	October 2027
------------------------	--------------

Mr. M. Dick (Australia)	October 2027
-------------------------	--------------

Mr. C. Cajado (Brazil)	October 2027
------------------------	--------------

Mr. G.O. Akpabio (Nigeria)	October 2027
----------------------------	--------------

Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico) Ex	March 2025
---------------------------------	------------

Officio

Mr. D. Carden (UK) Ex Officio	March 2025
-------------------------------	------------

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 good engagement at meetings including a visit to the IPU Headquarters by BGIPU Officers in January and a visit from the IPU President to the UK Parliament in July. There was also close cooperation at Assemblies in Manama and Luanda, the Parliamentary Hearing in New York, the Interfaith Dialogue Conference in Marrakesh, the Executive Committee meeting in Lisbon, and the Young Parliamentarians meeting in Hanoi. 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

National Groups of the IPU

As of November 2023 there are 180 Members and 14 Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Afghanistan	China	Guinea
Albania	Colombia	Guinea-Bissau
Algeria	Comoros	Guyana
Andorra	Congo	Haiti
Angola	Costa Rica	Honduras
Argentina	Côte d'Ivoire	Hungary
Armenia	Croatia	Iceland
Australia	Cuba	India
Austria	Cyprus	Indonesia
Azerbaijan	Czech Republic	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Bahamas	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
Bulgaria	Estonia	Democratic
Burkina Faso	Eswatini	Republic
Burundi	Ethiopia	Latvia
Cabo Verde	Fiji	Lebanon
Cambodia	Finland	Lesotho
Cameroon	France	Liberia
Canada	Gabon	Libya
Central African	Gambia	Liechtenstein
Republic	Georgia	Lithuania
Chad	Germany	Luxembourg
Chile	Ghana	Madagascar
	Greece	Malawi
	Guatemala	Malaysia

Maldives	Romania	United Arab Emirates
Mali	Russian Federation	United Kingdom
Malta	Rwanda	United Republic of Tanzania
Marshall Islands	Saint Lucia	Uruguay
Mauritania	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	Uzbekistan
Mauritius	Samoa	Vanuatu
Mexico	San Marino	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic Of)
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Sao Tome & Principe	Viet Nam
Monaco	Saudi Arabia	Yemen
Mongolia	Senegal	Zambia
Montenegro	Serbia	Zimbabwe
Morocco	Seychelles	
Mozambique	Sierra Leone	
Myanmar	Singapore	
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	

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

Mercosur Parliament (PARLASUR)

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 2022 to November 2023

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. In early 2023 an interim decision was taken to restrict funding to inward delegation activities hosted by APPGs. This decision was confirmed on 31 October 2023 following the adoption of new rules governing APPGs.

APPG Finland

Assistance totalling £30.35 was provided to the Finland APPG for a welcome lunch for the new Finnish Ambassador and members of the APPG in November 2022.

APPG Poland

Assistance totalling £359.94 was provided to the Poland APPG for a dinner, lunch and small gift for a visiting Polish Parliamentarian with the APPG in December 2022.

APPG North Macedonia

Assistance totalling £185.46 was provided to the North Macedonia APPG for a welcome lunch for a visiting delegation and members of the APPG in January 2023.

APPG Ukraine

Assistance totalling £391 was provided to the Ukraine APPG for a welcome lunch for a visiting delegation and members of the APPG in March 2023.

APPG Romania

Assistance totalling £475.86 was provided to the Romania APPG for a welcome lunch for a visiting delegation and members of the APPG in March 2023.

APPG Albania

Assistance totalling £648.12 was provided to the Albania APPG for a welcome lunch for a visiting delegation from the Prime Minister of Albania and members of the APPG in March 2023.

APPG Croatia

Assistance totalling £500 was provided to the Croatia APPG for a welcome lunch for a visiting delegation and members of the APPG in April 2023.

APPG Greece

Assistance totalling £178.97 was provided to the Greece APPG for a welcome lunch for the new Ambassador in May 2023.

APPG Austria

Assistance totalling £152 was provided to the Austria APPG for a welcome lunch for a visiting delegation and members of the APPG in May 2023.

APPG Saudi Arabia

Assistance totalling £72.58 was provided to the Saudi Arabia APPG for a welcome lunch for a visiting delegation and members of the APPG in June 2023.

APPG Kosovo

Assistance totalling £537.52 was provided to the Kosovo APPG for a welcome lunch for the Prime Minister, visiting delegation and members of the APPG in June 2023 .

APPG Netherlands

Assistance totalling £333.63 was provided to the Netherlands APPG for a welcome lunch for a visiting delegation and members of the APPG in June 2023.

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	Finance & Administration Manager	July 2008
Ms Rhiannon Edwards	Multilateral Programme Manager	September 2016
Ms Holly Sloan	International Project Manager	April 2022
Ms Mathilde Ollivo	International Project Manager	June 2023
Mr Joe Perry	International Project Manager	October 2023
Mr Henry Collison	Executive Officer	June 2023

STAFF MOVEMENTS

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

	Position	Left Employment
Ms Fiona Burnet	International Project Manager	August 2023
Mr Jack Patterson	International Project Manager	March 2023



**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

