



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH GROUP  
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY  
UNION

2015



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The BGIPU Chairman, Nigel Evans MP, speaking  
at the 133rd IPU Assembly in Geneva

# ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP



# Chair's Report



**Mr Nigel Evans MP**  
**Chair, BGIPU**

This is my first report since being elected Chair on 30 June at our Special General Meeting following the 2015 General Elections. I would like to register my gratitude to those parliamentary colleagues who supported me for election and to those who have served on the Executive Committee during this interim period, in particular my fellow Officers of the Group. I also want to express appreciation to all those members who have supported our work by engaging with visiting delegations to Westminster.

I personally would like to thank Robert Walter and Alistair Burt for the excellent work and dedication to the work of the IPU.

I also acknowledge the very important contribution of members who have undertaken outward visits to counterpart parliaments, as members of UK delegations to Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assemblies or who have attended other inter-parliamentary meetings overseas. The importance of our work in engaging with overseas counterparts cannot be understated in a complex international environment where uncertainty and misunderstanding are unfortunately all too common.

I would also like to highlight BGIPU's great appreciation for the support we receive from UK Ministers and Her Majesty's Government officials in our work, most particularly in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). They have proved to be essential partners for our work in meeting visiting delegations here in London and supporting our work overseas. In particular, I would like to note the role played by the FCO's Parliamentary Relations Department which provides us with valuable guidance and support. I must also recognise the vital contribution made by the diplomatic corps in London and counterpart UK missions overseas which have provided excellent support over the course of the year.

In 2015 BGIPU has received delegations to the Palace of Westminster from Morocco, Iran, Ukraine, Honduras and soon Cote

d'Ivoire. I note that the delegation from Iran was particularly timely and relevant in complementing broader UK efforts to re-build our bilateral relations in the context of successful bilateral re-engagement and broader global objectives for the UK. Our regular engagement with counterparts from Ukraine has also been a high priority given ongoing challenges facing their country.

There are a range of other inward visits under preparation which will ensure BGIPU will meet its full complement of visits for the period 2015/16. Alongside this formal inward programme, BGIPU also hosted parliamentarians, officials and other interlocutors from a wide array of parliaments, including Vietnam, Andorra, Ukraine, Uruguay, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Mexico, Iraq and Indonesia in addition to a working visit by senior officials from the IPU Secretariat in Geneva, including in January, the Secretary General, Martin Chungong.

In terms of BGIPU delegation travel overseas, we have sent UK parliamentary delegations to Burma, Ukraine, Romania, Angola, Mexico and shortly Senegal, with other delegations planned to occur before the end of the 2015/16 financial year. Reports of all of these activities, both inward and outward, are published on BGIPU's website which supplements this Annual Report.

In carrying out these bilateral activities, a key focus has been to provide a mechanism to compare and contrast our respective parliamentary systems with overseas counterparts, always seeking to learn from each other's common experience in support of democratic governance and to bolster our respective work as parliamentarians. The insights we gain into the challenges faced and opportunities taken by other countries also help inform the quality of the foreign policy debate in our own parliament and provide concrete experience to better inform our debates and decisions.

My predecessor, the Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, led the UK delegation to the 132nd IPU Assembly in Hanoi in March and I had the honour of leading the UK delegation to the 133rd IPU Assemblies in Geneva in October. Through BGIPU participation in these Assemblies, our delegations were able to represent the interests of the UK Parliament and engage with a very wide array of national delegations from the IPU's now 167 member parliaments. Through these contacts, we debated a wide range of contemporary global issues, from the scourge of terrorism to the urgent need for compassionate solutions to the

current refugee crisis, finding both common ground and exploring differences in perspectives. We undertook ten targeted bilateral meetings and made a range of less formal contacts in the course of the most recent IPU Assembly in Geneva, following a similar number of detailed bilateral exchanges with parliamentary counterparts at the Hanoi Assembly.

Substantive outcomes of IPU Assemblies in 2015 have included resolutions on “Cyber warfare: A serious threat to peace and global security”, “Shaping a new system of water governance: Promoting parliamentary action on water and sanitation”, “International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights” and most recently on “Democracy in the digital era and the threat to privacy and individual freedoms”. None of these are easy issues and many of them raise challenging questions at the very leading edge of public policy considerations that advance the debate and can set very useful benchmarks for future international or national discourse.

The IPU has provided a platform at Assemblies for inter-parliamentary emergency debates on the threat of extremist terrorism and the rise of Daesh and the serious challenges posed by the refugee crisis facing Europe as a result of instability and conflict in North Africa and the Middle East. IPU members also completed work commenced back with the Quito Communique in 2013 to highlight to the UN system the important role Parliaments must play in implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), underscoring the need for transparency, accountability and parliamentary oversight in advancing this new global development agenda.

The UK delegation to IPU Assemblies continues to play a very active role, including through Lord Judd’s leadership of the Committee on Middle East Questions and Ann Clwyd’s vital contribution as President on the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, which is unique in protecting the rights of parliamentarians worldwide. The UK delegation also maintains its very important role on the IPU’s Executive Committee and Ian Liddell-Grainger was elected at the October Assembly in Geneva to continue Robert Walter’s work overseeing the overall direction, administration and finances of the IPU and representing the members of the 12 Plus geopolitical group on this body.

In addition to IPU Assemblies, we have also sent UK delegations to a number of IPU-organised meetings, often convened in connection with major global meetings, such as for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59) in New York in March and the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Tokyo in May. Additionally, we supported the very active participation of the Lord Speaker in the 10th Women Speaker's Meeting and both the Speaker and Lord Speaker in the 4th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in August/September in New York. The World Conference of Speakers of Parliament – an event held every five years to coincide with landmark UN Leaders Summits – was particularly notable in allowing the IPU to ensure parliamentary perspectives were heard at the highest level of the UN system in advance of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals setting the new global development agenda until 2030.

As BGIPU Chair, I am committed to continue the work of my predecessors in offering our membership a wide range of unique and valuable opportunities for engagement with overseas counterparts and ensuring that UK Parliamentarians can be active and influential in the IPU. Our key objective remains to advance the UK's international relations priorities through inter-parliamentary dialogue and engagement – a mechanism which is different and distinct from formal inter-governmental relations and, I strongly believe, adds significant value to the UK's international engagement. Our programme of activities must always remain highly responsive to an ever-changing international environment and I welcome your engagement to ensure our work remains timely and relevant to the needs and interests of our members.

**Nigel Evans MP**  
**Chair, British Group IPU**  
**9 November 2015**

# Director's Report



**Mr Rick Nimmo**  
**Director, BGIPU**

In outlining the key administrative and organisational issues which faced the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) Secretariat in 2015, I must start by expressing my very deep gratitude to our exceptionally dedicated Secretariat staff. Juggling parliamentary calendars and commitments across international datelines and competing global agendas is certainly never easy. But, to be able to deliver a very comprehensive and engaging programme of activities against the backdrop of a UK General

Election, certainly deserves the highest recognition given the extra challenges and constraints this created for our work in 2015.

I must also acknowledge the strong commitment and interest in our work by the BGIPU membership, noting this now comprises all members of both Houses following the AGM decision last year to make all UK Parliamentarians eligible to participate in BGIPU activities by virtue of their parliamentary standing.

In this final year of our three-year Strategic Business Plan, adopted by the Executive Committee in late 2012, the Secretariat has been able to draw on a very strong foundation for our administrative, financial and human resources functions, befitting from significant effort in recent years to review, improve and consolidate our operations. We are pleased that these efforts have ensured we fully met our key obligations under the Financial Memorandum with our funding bodies in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

In support of our 2016-17 Request for Funding submitted in September 2015, I completed a detailed review of achievements against the BGIPU objectives outlined in our three-year Strategic Business Plan, noting this plan will be comprehensively renewed for the next multi-year period following the election of the next Executive Committee after this year's Annual General Meeting. This review highlighted key outcomes for the year including reconstitution of the Executive Committee and the election of a new Chair, Nigel Evans MP, following the outcome of the 2015 General Election. Other key outcomes demonstrated that BGIPU remains well on track to meet

its qualitative targets for inward and outward delegations for 2015, despite the pause in activity over the dissolution and election period, and that we continue to enjoy increasing levels of participation and uniformly positive feedback from members and key stakeholders; feedback we are now seeking routinely to provide qualitative and quantitative validation of the relevance and effectiveness of our work.

Close and consultative engagement with our two funding bodies in both Houses was key to our success in adopting concrete measures to better manage our financial reserves in line with expectations, including through active shaping of the pattern of payments and expenditure to attain far lower reserve levels. We are also grateful for the regard they expressed for the high quality and accuracy of our financial accounts. Again, we were able to obtain excellent external Audit outcomes, with no internal control deficiencies identified, which is key to ensuring BGIPU is able to mitigate against the various financial, administrative and representational risks identified in our Risk Management Strategy. This is a credit to the efforts of our Treasurer, Mr Fabian Hamilton MP, and the excellent accounting and financial management advice we received from our Finance and Administration Manager, Ms Jackie Rhodes.

In meeting BGIPU's core human resources obligations in 2015, following efforts in 2013 and 2014 to bring all relevant procedures into line with House of Commons pay and banding practice, we fully implemented access to flexible working provisions and completed two successful recruitment rounds for new International Project Manager (IPM) positions. In advance of the staging of new statutory pension auto-enrolment obligations, we have also completed a comprehensive survey of our pension options and are trialling a pensions solution best suited to meeting our ongoing needs as our 2017 staging date approaches. We can also have greater confidence that staff are made fully aware of their entitlements and obligations through the BGIPU Staff Handbook, updated regularly in line with relevant provisions of the House of Commons staffing provisions.

Consistent with past Executive Committee directions, BGIPU has also continued to use more streamlined internet-based communications and outreach tools, with close attention to the quality and timely content of the BGIPU website as the main conduit for reporting, complementary to this Annual Report. We continue to produce regular editions of an electronic newsletter for members

and interested subscribers, highlighting the breadth of our inter-parliamentary activities and the key outcomes of BGIPU's work.

We are very pleased to have seen increased levels of awareness among parliamentarians and external partners of our activities and we now enjoy a solid social media profile through Twitter which greatly complements our website-based reporting and helps build partnerships with other like-minded bodies. In addition, we undertook significant outreach work following the 2015 elections to distribute information on BGIPU to new and returning members which was very successful in attracting healthy levels of interest in programmed delegations and ensuring new nominations for Executive Committee membership. This modernisation of communications and outreach efforts has ensured we continue to have greatly reduced publication and stationery costs while also improving exposure for BGIPU's work.

In terms of policy-related membership events, we have convened a number of thematic lectures and hosted policy events in 2015, including presentations on key IPU activities such as advancing the role of young parliamentarians, the post-2015 global goals, challenges facing the FCO in the Middle East and North Africa region, European security, gender empowerment and addressing violence against women and drug policy reform issues. A major objective of these events has been to encourage debate among members and to build our cooperation with government and non-government partners outside Parliament.

BGIPU has also hosted a number of well-attended members' events to better promote our work to new and returning members, including an event for members' staff and a reception to mark the International Day of Democracy on 15 September and discuss the state of democracy in the world. BGIPU is also working with Wilton Park to host an International Parliamentary Seminar on European Security in early 2016, addressing a timely and complex issue on the international relations horizon.

BGIPU maintains continued close engagement with other inter-parliamentary bodies, particularly the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, hosting a number of joint activities in addition to our regular shared diplomatic function for the State Opening of Parliament on 27 May 2015. We also have strong engagement with a diverse range of country-based and

thematic All Party Parliamentary Groups, including the support of inward and outward delegation visits, key policy events and in providing financial support to facilitate exchanges between APPG members and their respective parliamentary counterparts for events in London and abroad.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I offer my sincere thanks to all members of the Executive Committees, both prior to and after the 2015 General Election, and for the guidance and support of the Secretariat in 2015. I am particularly grateful to the Officers of the BGIPU, especially our Chair, Nigel Evans MP, for his commitment, guidance and stewardship of the BGIPU since his election to the post in June this year.

I would also like to recognise the extremely valuable contribution of our immediate past Chair, Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, in leading BGIPU prior to his return to the Government frontbenches. I must also recognise the distinguished contribution of Robert Walter during his time as BGIPU Chair and, more recently, as the 12 Plus representative of the IPU Executive Committee prior to his standing down from Parliament this year. I look forward to working closely with Ian Liddell-Grainger MP who was elected to complete the remainder of the UK's term on this important IPU governing body at the Geneva Assembly in October.

BGIPU enjoys very strong support from many colleagues in both Houses of Parliament, at all levels and we are grateful and appreciative of the working relationships we enjoy with parliamentary staff and colleagues in members' offices. We particularly value our close cooperation with the Overseas Offices of both Houses and I acknowledge the excellent support we receive from our budget holders, Crispin Poyser and Simon Burton, who provide invaluable support to BGIPU's work throughout the year so generously.

**Rick Nimmo**  
**Director, British Group IPU**  
**9 November 2015**



# **Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union**

**Wednesday 3 December 2014**

The Annual General Meeting of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union was held in the Attlee Suit, Portcullis House on Wednesday 3 December 2104. The Honorary President, the Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Mr Speaker, was in the Chair.

## **Opening Remarks by Mr Speaker**

### **MR SPEAKER:**

My Lords, Ladies and gentlemen, I now call this Annual General Meeting to order and in doing so extend a very warm welcome to everyone. I hope that colleagues have had a chance to review the 2014 Annual Report, which was distributed in November. Hard copies are available here for those who would like such.

Please note that there will be no requirement for an election ballot today as the nominated Officers and Members of the Executive Committee are all standing unopposed for these positions, which is a great tribute to skilful organisation, their enduring popularity, or a virtuous combination of the two. However, I must emphasise that there are two vacancies that will need to be filled subsequently at the first meeting of the Executive Committee and this election will be dealt with under item 9.

## **Apologies for absence**

### **MR SPEAKER:**

The next item is apologies for absence. Do we have any?

### **RICK NIMMO, DIRECTOR:**

Yes. We have 38 apologies.

**MR SPEAKER:**

We have 38 apologies of which, no doubt, a list can be viewed if necessary.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 4 December 2013

**MR SPEAKER:**

We are now required to adopt the minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 4 December 2013. These minutes are printed on pages 16 to 32 of the 2014 Annual Report. May I please have a proposer and seconder that the minutes are adopted as a true record of the meeting? (Proposed by Ian Paisley MP and seconded by Lord Foulkes.)

All those in favour please raise your hand.

Any against? No. Thank you.

I shall now sign the minutes as a true record.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

**MR SPEAKER:**

Are there any matters arising from those minutes?

**DIRECTOR:**

No matters arising have been notified.

**Adoption of the Annual Report 2014**

**MR SPEAKER:**

I now invite the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the right hon. Hugo Swire MP to propose the adoption of the 2014 Annual Report.

## **RT HON HUGO SWIRE MP:**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am honoured and delighted to be here, and may I congratulate you on your excellent choice of Minister to speak at this year's Annual General Meeting? He is arguably the most handsome and charming Minister in the Foreign Office. Unfortunately, Tobias Ellwood had to cancel, but I am glad to be here instead. I do not know who wrote that joke; it does not really work, even if it is true.

I have an enduring respect for the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which is, as we all know, quite extraordinarily the oldest multilateral political organisation in the world. It has been strengthening global peace and democracy for the past 125 years and was, of course, co-founded by a British MP, Sir Randal Cremer.

As Alistair Burt and Bob Walter showed at the anniversary event in Geneva this summer, the British commitment to the IPU continues to this day. That commitment is clearly shown in this year's—as in many other years'—Annual Report. I am particularly pleased that, among this year's achievements, Sir John Stanley, Jackie Doyle-Price, Kerry McCarthy, Baroness Northover and Virendra Sharma visited Nepal, a country particularly close to my heart as the son-in-law of a former Gurkha. I hope, however, that the breakfast on their visit to the ambassador's residence was better than mine, as I am afraid to say that I found a cockroach swimming in my coffee.

Sir John's visit to Nepal was well timed, coming at a critical point in discussions on Nepal's constitution, about which Mr Modi has been talking to the Nepalese in Kathmandu within the past 48 hours. That is incredibly important to Nepal's democratic development. I am delighted that the trip was a success, along with this year's other visits which, along with your international conferences and Westminster-based events, have done much to help to consolidate democracy, prosperity and security around what is an increasingly dangerous world. I believe that your work complements perfectly the work that we try to do at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

On prosperity, you have banged the drum for trade, identified opportunities for British businesses, and attended the ninth World Trade Organisation ministerial conference in Bali. That work

reinforced our own efforts to send out the message that Britain is open for business; to build the long-term economic conditions in which British companies can thrive overseas; to create a level playing field at the point of entry for those British companies so that they can take advantage of overseas markets; and to help to deliver the Chancellor's export drive whereby, by 2020, we aim to have doubled British exports to £1 trillion, increased the number of British companies exporting to 100,000, and increased foreign direct investment into the United Kingdom to £1.5 trillion.

Whether through working closely with others to secure the historic WTO trade facilitation agreement; through our GREAT campaign, which has been a huge success, being the largest ever promotion of the UK and all its wares across 144 countries; or through our trade missions, which have been unprecedented in terms of both numbers and success—I was honoured to join the Prime Minister in the largest ever trade delegations to leave these shores, bound for India and China—our economic diplomacy is paying off. The cross-party trade ambassadors are doing a great job in assisting us all in promoting British companies and exports. I thank those of you who are among that number.

Together, in the past year, we contributed to British business wins worth £21.7 billion, and our GREAT campaign delivered returns worth £500 million. I am sure that you will agree that those are not insignificant figures. Sealing the World Trade Organisation agreement in Bali means that the UK economy could gain £1 billion per year, and the global economy could gain by about £65 billion.

As you know, you cannot build prosperity without security, and on that issue the work of the British Group has again been invaluable. From violence against women and girls in conflict to oversight and enforcement of the arms trade treaty, your efforts to promote action and understanding have once more complemented our work perfectly. In June, our global summit to end sexual violence in conflict saw 1,700 delegates, 123 countries and 79 Ministers in London agreeing practical steps to tackle impunity and to begin to change attitudes around the world.

At the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly, we helped to secure important outcomes on, among other things, the UN mandate to look into war crimes at the closing stages

of the civil war in Sri Lanka; on Syria; on the appalling human rights abuses and the condition of the people in DPRK—North Korea—on Burma; and on the death penalty more widely. That is not to mention the more than 70 human rights projects across more than 40 countries in eight priority areas from consolidating democracy to torture prevention.

As one of the seven co-authors of the arms trade treaty, we are delighted that it will finally enter into force this Christmas eve, but we continue to encourage others to sign and ratify it as soon as possible. As the Annual Report shows, British parliamentarians continue to make a vital contribution to our common aims of building democracy, peace and prosperity in the UK and around the world.

In conclusion, it is very important that British parliamentarians go to those countries and speak up about universal values, because they can often do things that Ministers cannot. They have what we call people-to-people contacts at the same level with other Parliaments around the world. It is an extraordinarily valuable and valued resource. People have extraordinary respect—perhaps it is not extraordinary to those of us who are lucky and privileged enough to be here—for the British parliamentary system, the mother of Parliaments, and for the democratic processes in both our Houses of Parliament. That is one of the greatest exports that we have left in our armoury of what we call soft diplomacy. We are not about invading countries by force any more; we are about exporting our democratic values.

I thank each and every member of this group for the work you are doing as ambassadors for our country. It is a great delight to propose this year's report.

**MR SPEAKER:**

Hugo, thank you very much indeed. In welcoming a late arrival among existing colleagues—a hugely committed devotee of the IPU, Jeremy Corbyn—I must say that it is always a pleasure to welcome former colleagues. I take this opportunity to welcome Sir Nicholas Winteron, who was an extremely active member of the IPU for most of his nearly four decades in the House. Nick, it is good to see you here. Thank you for joining us.

I now invite Kerry McCarthy MP, the shadow Minister for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to second the 2014 Annual Report.

### **KERRY McCARTHY MP:**

It is always a test to see whether the microphone is at my level! Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the introduction. It is, of course, an honour to be asked to second the adoption of the report and to follow the Minister of State. I spend quite a lot of time following him around this building; yesterday, we were in the debate on Hong Kong for three hours. Our appreciation for the work of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union clearly unites those on the Government and Opposition Benches.

This has been a particularly momentous year for the IPU at international level, as it is celebrating its 125th anniversary, and of course the British Group has continued to make its own invaluable contribution.

Uruguay was among the delegations hosted by the BGIPU. I visited Uruguay earlier this year for the Progressive Alliance Seminar and I know from the time that I spent there that both our countries are very keen to strengthen ties. The IPU visit was a very important part of that.

In June, the Group hosted a delegation of women MPs from Sudan. That was the first inward delegation organised with a deliberate gender focus as part of the IPU agenda for gender-sensitive Parliaments. In Sudan, a quota system guarantees women 25% of the seats in the National Assembly, so in the IPU league table it is six places ahead of the UK; only 23% of the seats in the House of Commons are held by women at the moment. But in the discussions that we had with the women visitors from Sudan, we learned that women in Sudan still have to overcome many cultural obstacles and that gender-based violence is a particular problem.

The members of the delegation met the Minister for Women and Equalities and the International Development Secretary and, in a varied itinerary, also visited the constituency of the Member for Regent's Park, Karen Buck. I had the opportunity to take part in the mentoring scheme that the IPU organised. It was a privilege

to meet the women and to discuss issues such as voter engagement and social media. It was interesting to learn that although they are some way behind us in terms of the reach that social media and new technology have, they seem to be subjected to the same abuse and to face the same difficulties that some of us have when we seek to engage. We realised that, despite the very different settings, we face many similar issues in trying to reach out to our constituents, the people we represent, and not be sidetracked by those who seek to intimidate us and prevent us from doing so.

The outward delegations organised by the IPU this year, to Armenia, Poland, Haiti, Georgia, Nepal, the UAE, Norway and Guatemala and Honduras, provide an indication of the reach of the IPU. As the Minister mentioned, I was very privileged to be selected to visit Nepal. I had previously met the ambassador in London and had heard a great deal about the country, so I was very keen to go on that trip. While there, we were able to meet the President, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Speaker, the Finance Minister, the Foreign Minister and MPs, but importantly the visit was not just about engagement at parliamentary level. To put the country and the work of its parliamentarians in context, you need to see something of the country as well, so we met civil society representatives, visited DFID's forestry programme and met people from Nepal's tourism industry to learn about its economic importance and how they can develop that. We also learned about the threat posed by climate change, with the glaciers melting. Of course, we also met the Gurkhas and were shown very warm hospitality by them at their base in Pokhara. It will be interesting to hear what their reaction is to the announcement in today's autumn statement.

Nepal is a country with so much to offer. It has stunning natural scenery, and the old cities are an absolutely phenomenal sight, so it was a real privilege to take part in the visit. I think one of the most important things was the variety of delegates who were chosen to go on the trip. As has been said, Sir John Stanley chaired it; Virendra Sharma came along, as did Baroness Northover. There was a really good selection of people who each had a very different insight into the country. I think it was partly that that made the trip so successful: we all had our own thing to contribute.

I also pay tribute to the excellent organisational skills

of, and immense patience shown by, Charlie Holloway, who was accompanying us. She never stopped smiling the whole time, even though we probably gave her grounds to stop smiling sometimes. She did an amazing job, and I think sometimes the staff do not get the credit that they deserve.

The programmes I have taken part in have been incredibly valuable for me—both the Sudan programme over here and the visit to Nepal. To me, they really underscore the role of the IPU in strengthening bilateral relations but also in promoting democracy, human rights, equality and development, as well as highlighting where we can learn from other Parliaments. It is not just about our taking the Westminster model out to other countries.

The BGIPU has also made an enormous contribution on global issues. As has been mentioned, it should be particularly congratulated on hosting the three-day multilateral seminar on the arms trade treaty just over a month before the treaty comes into force. This produced the “Parliamentary Perspectives on the Arms Trade Treaty” document, which will be conveyed to the first conference of state parties in 2015. You all have copies of the Annual Report, so you will see many more examples in there of the BGIPU’s contribution to global co-operation and bilateral engagement. It is a great privilege to second the adoption of this Report. I wish the IPU, all who work for it and all members who take part in its activities all the best for years to come. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Kerry. The 2014 Annual Report has now been proposed and seconded. Is it agreed that we adopt the report?

All those in favour, please raise your hands.

Any against? No. Good, thank you.

The Annual Report is unanimously adopted.



**Presentation of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 by Fabian Hamilton MP, Honorary Treasurer of the BGIPU**

**MR SPEAKER:**

We now move on to Item 6. Mr Fabian Hamilton, Honorary Treasurer of the BGIPU, will present the Financial Statements.

**FABIAN HAMILTON MP:**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I hope that you will forgive me if I do so from this sedentary position. Before I start with the presentation of the Financial Statements, I would just like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Mike Gapes, who did the job for three years. I thank him for the high standards that he maintained, and I hope that I can live up to his example.

I am happy to present the Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2014, shown at pages 35 to 54 of our 2014 Annual Report. These cover the 2013-14 financial year. The rest of the Annual Report reflects all the BGIPU activities since the 2013 Annual General Meeting on a calendar year rather than financial year basis. Reeves and Co LLP conducted the audit. Peter Hudson, the audit partner, and Anne Carter, the audit manager, are both with us today. I thank them for attending. On page 46 of the 2014 Annual Report, our auditors report their unqualified opinion of the Financial Statements. The Audit Committee deliberated on 1 July 2014 and recommended that the Executive Committee approve the Financial Statements, which the Chair and Treasurer signed at the Executive Committee meeting on 15 July.

Income and expenditure accounts appear on page 47. I need to draw your attention to some of the figures in the statements. Income decreased from £1,269,376 to £1,140,977. The Group received £1,139,400 of grant in aid, representing 90% of the maximum available, compared with the full £1,266,000 in the year ended 31 March 2013. Bank interest fell from £3,113 in the previous year to £910 in the current year, due to the lower cash reserves and lower interest rates.

Expenditure decreased marginally from £1,218,069 to £1,216,444. Subscription expenses decreased by around £27,000, with the majority of this cost being the IPU subscription fee, which reduced owing to changes in the UN scale of assessment. That saw the total UK share in Swiss francs fall to CHF 581,000 in 2014 from the previous 2013 level of CHF 688,000.

The aggregated costs of conferences, IPU seminars and outward delegations decreased from £255,755 to £179,401, as the main assembly costs decreased from £144,231 in the prior year to £51,174, because both IPU Assemblies were held in the less costly venue of Geneva. Delegates were sent to 17 smaller IPU meetings for a total cost of £42,388, and five outward delegations were undertaken at a total cost of £85,839.

Five inward delegations, and seven smaller events classed as Days in Parliament, together with a seminar on drug policy reform, were hosted at a total cost of £124,179. Funding was claimed by six all-party parliamentary country groups at a total cost of £23,263.

The cost of staff salaries and related expenses increased substantially from £309,388 to £406,838, as six of the permanent employees were regraded with effect from 1 April 2013 following a job evaluation and grading process approved by the Executive Committee in 2013; the director received a pay increase in December; and an eighth employee was in post for the full financial year.

Printing, stationery, postage and telephone costs fell for the fourth successive year owing to increased use of electronic communications. Publishing and public relations costs have also decreased, while general hospitality costs increased marginally. Audit fees increased slightly in line with inflation, while insurance costs remained fairly static. Sundry expenses, including bank charges and other office costs, have risen marginally. Only a small amount of giftware was purchased during the year, since stock levels continue to be maintained at lower levels. The net effect was a small deficit for the year of £75,467.

The balance sheet on page 48 shows that net assets have decreased from £940,764 to £865,297, reflecting that small deficit. Fixed assets have decreased marginally; a full summary of changes to these appears in note 2 on page 52. Current assets have decreased

due to the fall in the bank balances from £627,864 to £593,505 and the fall in prepayments consequent on the lower IPU subscription cost. The debtors of £4,311 comprise mainly private hotel costs related to participation in the 130th Assembly, subsequently recovered against subsistence costs. Creditors and accruals have fallen marginally from £67,000 to £64,840. These mostly comprise invoices and expense claims related to events held in February and March 2014, non-consolidated bonuses for 2013-14, pension contributions, and payroll taxes for March. It's nearly over!

The cash flow statement on page 49 highlights the decrease in cash of £34,359, compared to a £91,410 increase the previous year. The financial memorandum dated 1 April 2012 was in effect for the 2013-14 financial year; however, a revised version came into effect from 1 April 2014 with minor technical changes, but no substantive impact on the scale or scope of financial arrangements with both Houses of Parliament. The Annual Report containing the financial statements has been published on the BGIPU website for the third year running.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank Jackie Rhodes, without whom my job would be considerably more difficult.

## **Re-appointment of Auditors**

### **MR SPEAKER:**

Are there any questions for the Treasurer? No? Good. We now have to appoint auditors for the current year. We have a proposal that our current auditors, Reeves & Co., be re-appointed. (Proposed by Lord Dholakia and Seconded by Mike Gapes MP.)

All those in favour, please raise your hands.

Any opposed? No.

Reeves & Co. are re-appointed as the Group's auditors for the current year.

## **Amendments to the BGIPU rules**

### **MR SPEAKER:**

Item 8 on the agenda is amendments to the BGIPU rules. I will ask our Director to report.

### **DIRECTOR:**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have circulated amendments to the BGIPU rules and they basically fall into four main categories. The first is a set of changes that reflect the use of gender-neutral language, and updating of references to IPU meetings where the titles have changed in the IPU statutes. These are minor corrections and they have no material effect on the provisions of the rules.

The main change is to Rule 3 and Rule 15, part 3, which propose establishing that membership of the BGIPU encompasses all Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, on the basis that the BGIPU is now fully funded by both Houses and, therefore, all UK parliamentarians should be included as full members for the purpose of eligibility to participate in our activities. This is a change, in that currently we require Members to put in a nomination form to be eligible. What we are doing is basically making this open to every Member, as an automatic right of being a Member of either of the Houses of Parliament. Nomination will therefore be for our activities, rather than for membership itself. This is intended to replace the current system and also provide some savings.

In terms of our distribution of the Annual Report and other information, where we are putting more of these documents online, there will be changes reflected in the rules. Rather than us dispatching the Annual Report, it will now be published electronically. Essentially, we are following through on the modernisation process that we started a few years ago to put more of our information on the website for the availability of all Members, rather than taking the old snail-mail approach of the past. We expect that this will have minor cost savings.

There is also a significant change in a proposal from Members of the House of Lords that one of the Officers of the Group—one of the Vice-Chairs—be appointed from the House of Lords. That would require a change to Rule 8, part 1, to allow a third Vice-Chair. That position was discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting, and the proposal was put forward on that basis.

The change will be to the numbers in that rule. Basically, it says that the total Executive Committee is 26 members, comprised of four Officers and 22 ordinary members. That of course will become 5 Officers and 21 ordinary members, seven of whom will still be peers, so there is no change in effect to the numbers, just to the composition. There will be an additional officer at Vice-Chair level.

We are also making some changes to the references to the all-party parliamentary groups; the word “affiliated” will be dropped, consistent with recent changes by the House of Commons Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards relating to the future treatment of all-party groups; affiliation to the IPU will no longer be a requirement. Again, that will make no material difference, and the IPU will still be offering financial support to those groups that apply.

Those are essentially the rule changes that we have suggested and that have been circulated.

**MR SPEAKER:**

Now that colleagues have heard and, I am sure, inwardly digested an explanation of the proposed changes to the rules, may I have a proposer and seconder? (Proposed by Ian Paisley MP and Seconded by John Robertson MP.)

All those in favour please raise your hands.

Any against? No. Thank you.

The new rules will be circulated on the BGIPU website and will take effect from the close of this Annual General Meeting.

**Election of Officers and the Executive Committee for the period 2014-2015**

**MR SPEAKER:**

I have to start by announcing that Stewart Jackson MP has reached the stipulated limits of office in his current role as Vice-Chair. I am sure that all Members would want us to record our thanks for his service as an Officer of the Group and express deep appreciation for his leadership in recent years.

As I announced at the beginning of this meeting, all the Officers and Executive Committee Members who are standing for election are unopposed. Their names were circulated to members on 26 November 2014. Copies of that letter are available today. If there are no objections, I hereby declare that they are duly elected with effect from the close of this Annual General Meeting. Silence is taken as assent. Thank you.

A list of new Officers and Executive Committee members will be placed, for the record, in the IPU room and the No Lobby, and on the Group's website following this meeting. Any new posts created by rule changes, the two vacancies and any possible co-options to the Executive Committee will be discussed at the first meeting of the new Executive Committee early in the new year.

To meet banking requirements, I move that the authorised signatories and the signing rules in the bank mandate for the BGIPU accounts be changed to reflect the selection of any new BGIPU Officers, and I propose that the mandate with RBS continue as amended. May I have a proposer and a seconder for that set of propositions? (Proposed by John Robertson MP and Seconded by Lord Dholakia.)

All those in favour, please raise your hands. Thank you.

Are there any against? No. Thank you.

The election of Officers and the Executive Committee is approved.

### **Any other Business**

#### **MR SPEAKER:**

Is there any other business?

#### **DIRECTOR:**

There has been no notice under Rule 15(4).

#### **MR SPEAKER:**

None has been notified.

## **Speech by the Chair of the BGIPU, Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP**

Well, colleagues, this is the moment for which you have been waiting with bated breath and with beads of sweat upon your brows, and that is to hear the Chair of the British Group of the IPU, whom I build up as he approaches the lectern and prepares to take the floor. He is a former Minister of some pedigree and renown, widely liked and respected at the Foreign Office, and now chairing the IPU. We are extremely grateful to Alistair Burt.

### **RT HON ALISTAIR BURT MP:**

Mr Speaker, colleagues, thank you very much indeed. That was a very kind reception. Kerry and I have the same requirements for the microphone, so it suits us both very well. Thank you.

I am very pleased to report, as the BGIPU Chair, that we have had a very productive and active year since my election last December. I am very grateful to parliamentary colleagues who have served on the Executive Committee, and in particular, my fellow Officers of the Group, not least Fabian for his hard work and the presentation of his accounts just now. In that regard, may I also express my gratitude to Stewart Jackson, who has completed the maximum three years but will be remaining on the Executive Committee? I should also acknowledge the contributions of all the BGIPU members standing down at the 2015 general election, recognising the vitally important contributions they have made, a number of them over many years.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the BGIPU members who have supported our work by participating in hosting visiting delegations in the Palace of Westminster or by participating in our outward visits programme to counterpart Parliaments. I am grateful for the contributions of members of our UK delegations to Inter-Parliamentary Union Assemblies which I have had the honour to lead this year, and in particular, I mention the important contributions made by Robert Walter, Ann Clwyd and Lord Frank Judd for their respective leadership roles in the IPU.

The roles that our parliamentarians adopt in the international body should not be minimised in any way. They require a good deal of

hard work and commitment. I really enjoyed the Geneva exploits—I have been out with all colleagues. There is no Member of Parliament who cannot feel they are well represented by colleagues in the work that they do there.

May I echo the comments that have been made by Mr Speaker and by both the proposer and seconder of the reports? Time abroad really matters for parliamentarians. We all know instinctively that the relationships we create by going abroad with colleagues can be among the deepest and the best we ever have in our professional life. You learn a great deal, usually to the good, from being away with colleagues. It is the personal things that make a difference.

Going through Warsaw with Mark Lazarowicz earlier this year was rather moving, and you realise the back stories of our colleagues can have great interest. Trying to get a word in edgeways with Stephen Pound, the Member of Parliament for the Polish borough of Ealing, was a challenge in a different sort of way. In the UAE, Lord Kilclooney must have found out where virtually every foreign worker in the UAE came from, because you asked them all. It is these little personal things that make a difference, demonstrating the humanity of colleagues. You see a great relationship developing between the people who see us not just as representatives of Westminster, but in our individual lights on such occasions. The collegiality of Parliament is hugely enhanced by what the IPU does and the visits that we make, so I thank all colleagues with whom I have been away in the past year. It has made a real difference to my year, and I have enjoyed it hugely.

I acknowledge the presence today of the Minister of State for the FCO, Hugo Swire. I thank him for his role in proposing our report. Many thanks, Hugo. I want to express the BGIPU's deep appreciation to UK Ministers and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials, particularly our very hard working ambassadors and mission staff, who strongly support our work both in London and overseas. I make particular reference to the invaluable support and assistance we received from the FCO parliamentary relations department. I would be very grateful, Minister, if you took that back to my friends and colleagues in the FCO.

I thank the shadow Minister, Kerry McCarthy, who followed me around Parliament quite a bit in our respective roles. You are now



fixed on someone else, but I thank you very much for seconding the report, reflecting, as you said, the extraordinarily strong co-operation on foreign affairs matters and the work of the IPU.

Through you, Mr Speaker, I express our thanks to the diplomatic corps in London, who also play a huge part in what we do and whose friendship and support for our work cannot be minimised. I also take the opportunity to thank the outstanding efforts of the BGIPU Secretariat for their work in advising and administering the Group's activities. We have recently had to say farewell to one of our international project officers, Stef Kenyon, and we welcome today her replacement, Ms Anja Richter, whom I understand commenced this morning. Hi, Anja. You will be very welcome, and you will enjoy one of the nicest teams in Westminster. I want to thank all of you for your personal help to me during this first year. I really appreciate it, and I think you perform a fantastic service for all our colleagues. Thank you very much.

As reflected in the report, the Group has received delegations to the Palace of Westminster from five Parliaments: Uruguay, Portugal, Sudan, Armenia and, just last week, a very timely and informative visit from Romania. In addition, we hosted parliamentarians, officials and other interlocutors in London from a wide array of countries: Australia, the Czech Republic, Guatemala, Tajikistan, Germany, Serbia and the Republic of Korea, in addition to a working visit by IPU Secretariat officials from Geneva.

In activities abroad, we visited nine countries in 2014: Armenia, Poland, Haiti, Georgia, Nepal, the UAE, Norway, Guatemala and Honduras. That is certainly a diverse set of bilateral exchanges, giving our members key insights into counterpart Parliaments and building contacts to enhance our understanding of international developments in an often complex and conflicted world. Our close focus on engaging with counterparts in Europe and neighbouring regions this year was a direct response to new threats of which we are all well aware but which were not widely anticipated even a year ago. That underscores the value of being flexible in planning our key exchanges, responsive to all manner of geopolitical developments and having the skills and expertise of colleagues on whom we can draw for such visits.

In carrying out these bilateral activities, a key focus has

been to seek deeper substantive exchanges with our parliamentary counterparts, comparing and contrasting our respective parliamentary systems and experiences, always seeking to learn from each other to strengthen democratic governance. We have also taken opportunities to advance parliamentary strengthening objectives in countries where the consolidation of democratic reforms continued to face significant challenges, such as in Haiti and, most recently, in Guinea-Bissau. The Secretariat is currently working on a similarly diverse forward programme of activities for 2015-16, which will be considered at our next Executive Committee meeting early in the new year. As Mr Speaker mentioned, that work is not to be underestimated in any way. As we go around the world, we find in so many places a deep concern about the failures of governance and people searching for how to do governance better. As I said when I made a few remarks on being elected last year, my experience in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office demonstrated to me how much people look to us. It is not that we do things better, and it is not that we do things in a way that people automatically want to follow; but we have a feel and experience that enables us to provide advice to which people listen. Those parliamentary contacts, in a very complex world where failures of governance are so often at the root cause of conflicts, mean we perhaps carry an extra burden of responsibility at present.

Through our IPU Assembly work and participation in other inter-parliamentary meetings, the BGIPU has given strong support to the IPU as the global body of Parliaments, a unique international role it plays as a vehicle for inter-parliamentary diplomacy. In the margins of Assemblies, we also met counterparts from around 20 countries for bilateral exchanges on key contemporary challenges such as the threat of fundamentalist extremism or the future security of Europe. Again, as the Minister reminded us, as parliamentarians we are slightly freer to say certain things and challenge some of our colleagues in a way that may be difficult for Ministers. I assure him that we took full advantage of that with one or two delegations in Geneva, who may not be speaking to us for a little while.

We must not forget, either, that this is a task the IPU has fulfilled for almost 126 years, with achievements equal to the work of many of the more lauded and prominent international institutions. I was proud to take part with the Director in the 125th anniversary

of the IPU earlier this year. I broke the rules of the International Secretariat by writing my own remarks for that meeting, which caused much raising of eyebrows among your colleagues in Geneva, although I think I just about got away with it because of the background stuff you had given me.

With some 166 member Parliaments and plans progressing for next year's Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, 2015 also promises to be a landmark year for the IPU, with the BGIPU continuing to take a prominent lead in all aspects of its work. Through this role, we continue to demonstrate our strong commitment to strengthening dialogue and understanding between parliamentarians throughout the world, including ensuring an active parliamentary voice in global affairs.

As I come to my conclusion, I will briefly highlight the BGIPU's very successful International Parliamentary Seminar on the Arms Trade Treaty, held in this room in early November. Some 60 parliamentarians and arms control experts were able to discuss parliamentary perspectives on a key global issue that remains very close to my own heart. I was particularly pleased that the Mexican Government has agreed to convey the parliamentary perspectives outcome document from that seminar to States Parties when they meet to discuss the future implementation of the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty next year.

In closing, I express my gratitude to all members for the strong support they have given me personally in re-electing me as Chair of the BGIPU, with special thanks to Robert Walter for leaving me such an excellent organisation to chair after him. I remain strongly committed, in close co-operation with the other members of the Executive Committee and in guiding the work of the Secretariat, to ensuring that the BGIPU delivers opportunities for you to engage across the broadest possible scope of strategic foreign policy priorities for Britain in the world, responsive to global developments and always reflecting the core international interest of our membership.

**MR SPEAKER:**

Alistair, thank you very much indeed for that speech and all the sentiments contained within it. We are delighted to have you as

our Chair.

## **Closure of the Meeting**

### **MR SPEAKER:**

In seeking to bring this meeting to a close, I want to emphasise what a privilege it is to chair the annual meeting. Before I was elected Speaker I was actively involved in the IPU and had occasion to travel abroad from time to time with Lord Judd and with Jeremy Corbyn, as well as with a number of people who are not present today. I have always thought that the work of the IPU is exceptionally important and share the sentiment of those who have said that those relationships matter, both individually and corporately, if I can put it that way.

At a time in which the world is as troubled as, if not more troubled than, it has been for a very long time, this may be soft power writ large, but that soft power is very important. It is not possible to put a price on it. It is easy for outside commentators, volunteering their observations with all the confidence born of complete ignorance of the subject under discussion, to skit the costs to public funds involved and so on and so forth, but some of the places that colleagues go to are very challenged and challenging parts of the world. Colleagues often stay in very insalubrious environments. They do so not because they are looking for some sort of freebie, but because they are exercising their commitment to public service. That is and should be respected and applauded.

So, colleagues, thank you, and here's to another successful year ahead, supported by a magnificent team of staff in the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. With that, I declare the meeting closed.

## **Officers and Executive Committee**

Following the Annual General Meeting held on **Wednesday 3 December 2014**, the under-mentioned were elected as Officers and Members of the Executive Committee

### **BGIPU Honorary Presidents**

Rt Hon John Bercow MP (The Speaker)  
Rt Hon the Baroness D'Souza (The Lord Speaker)

### **BGIPU President**

Rt Hon David Cameron MP (The Prime Minister)

### **BGIPU Vice-Presidents:**

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

### **Meetings of the Executive Committee**

Since the last Annual General Meeting on 3 December 2014, the Executive Committee met in 2015 on Tuesday 13 January, Tuesday 10 March, Tuesday 7 July and Tuesday 15 September. There was also a Special General Meeting, following the general election, which occurred on Tuesday 30 June 2015.

## **Officers & Executive Committee (December 2014 - June 2015)**

### **Chair:**

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

### **Vice-Chairs:**

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP

Mike Gapes MP

The Lord McColl of Dulwich CBE

### **Treasurer:**

Fabian Hamilton MP

### **Executive Committee:**

#### **Conservative Party**

Stewart Jackson MP

Tim Loughton MP

Mark Menzies MP

Andrew Rosindell MP

Rt Hon Sir John Stanley MP

John Whittingdale OBE MP  
*Vacancy (House of Commons)*

The Baroness Hooper CMG

Rt Hon the Lord Jopling DL

#### **Liberal Democrat Party**

*Vacancy (House of Commons)*

Rt Hon the Lord Dholakia OBE

DL

#### **Labour Party**

Hugh Bayley MP

Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP

Jeremy Corbyn MP

Ann McKeichin MP

Meg Munn MP

John Robertson MP

Rt Hon the Lord Anderson of  
Swansea DL

The Lord Dubs

#### **Democratic Unionist Party**

Ian Paisley MP

#### **Cross Bench**

The Earl of Sandwich

## **Officers & Executive Committee 2015 (As of 30 June SGM)**

### **Chair:**

Nigel Evans MP

### **Vice-Chairs:**

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP

Mike Gapes MP

The Lord McColl of Dulwich CBE

### **Treasurer:**

Fabian Hamilton MP

### **Executive Committee:**

#### **Conservative Party**

Bob Blackman MP

Conor Burns MP

Stewart Jackson MP

Tim Loughton MP

Mark Menzies MP

Andrew Rosindell MP

Mark Pritchard MP

Laurence Robertson MP

The Baroness Hooper CMG

Rt Hon the Lord Jopling DL

#### **Liberal Democrat Party**

Rt Hon the Lord Dholakia OBE

DL

#### **Democratic Unionist Party**

Ian Paisley MP

\* Subsequently Shadow Cabinet member

### **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 bringing total membership to over 1,450. In addition there are 160 Associate Members and 1 Honorary Member.

### **Labour Party**

Sarah Champion MP

Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP

Jeremy Corbyn MP\*

Seema Malhotra MP\*

Gavin Shuker MP

Rt Hon the Lord Anderson of

Swansea DL

The Lord Dubs

### **Scottish National Party**

Lisa Cameron MP

Stuart Donaldson MP

### **Cross Bench**

The Earl of Sandwich

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

**Year ended 31 March 2015  
British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

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



# Annual Governance Statement

## Governance framework

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

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

The Honorary Treasurer as Accounting Officer is responsible for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the aims and key objectives of the BGIPU whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets in a manner that is consistent with the Financial Memorandum (FM) issued by both Houses of Parliament for the use of the BGIPU's grant in aid. The

Honorary Treasurer is also responsible for ensuring such internal control measures are fully implemented in compliance with relevant Treasury and other guidelines. In particular, the role seeks to ensure that all resources are used economically, efficiently and cost-effectively including that the Executive Committee take financial considerations into account in making operational and policy decisions.

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

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

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

Arrangements for funding inter-parliamentary groups in the UK Parliament have evolved over many years. While funding of the

BGIPU originally came from member contributions, and later the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Treasury, in recent years the funding has been provided directly by both Houses of Parliament with 70 percent from the House of Commons and 30 percent from the House of Lords.

A new FM was signed on 31 March 2014 providing the basis for the continued financial support of BGIPU by both Houses of Parliament. This was negotiated, with minor updates, drawing on past memoranda agreed in 2009 and 2012 to set out the arrangements governing the funding relationship. The current FM requires the preparation of a detailed annual business plan, including estimated costs of programme and non-programme expenditure, regular quarterly reports of outturn figures and an overall commitment to meet recommended limits on reserves. BGIPU is also required to follow specific administrative, financial and human resources policies, analogous to those operated by the House of Commons, albeit proportionate and relevant to BGIPU's own unique character and circumstances.

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

## **Work of the Executive Committee**

The BGIPU Executive Committee has met on five occasions during the 2014-15 Financial Year. It convened on Tuesday 6 May 2014, Tuesday 15 July 2014, Tuesday 21 October 2014, Tuesday 13 January 2015 and Tuesday 10 March 2015. The Audit Committee was convened on Tuesday 1 July 2014 and Tuesday 3 February 2015. The BGIPU Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 3 December 2014.

Under the guidance of the Executive Committee, the Director has continued efforts to improve the organisation's effectiveness through a sharper focus on BGIPU's strategic priorities and regular review of planning and implementation procedures. Consistent with the requirements of the FM, the Director submitted to the funding bodies an annual review of the Executive Committee-approved 3-year Strategic Business Plan adopted in 2012 and submitted detailed forward planning budgets for the next three financial years in support of BGIPU's 2015/16 Request for Funding. A detailed Forward Programme drawing on the multi-year business plan was approved by the Executive Committee, which was endorsed by the incoming Executive Committee following the 2015 General Elections, as the basis for targeted inter-parliamentary exchanges and international relations work.

Under the day-to-day management of the Director, and with the assistance of a specialist human resources expert brought in on a contract basis, the Executive Committee took steps in recent years to ensure staff members are employed on terms broadly in line with those of the House of Commons as required in the FM, including following the appropriate pay-bands and salary levels applying to House staff. BGIPU staff also actively participated in a comprehensive review of policies, practices and work procedures to contribute to a revised Staff Handbook which is regularly updated in line with any relevant changes to House of Commons policies or practices.

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

## **Risks**

The mechanisms and procedures of the BGIPU are designed

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

### *Capacity to Handle Risk*

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

### *Risk Control Framework*

A Risk Register has been compiled and approved by the Executive Committee, and forms the focus of the organisation's risk management strategy (last reviewed in February 2015). The Director also undertook specialist Risk Management training in 2014 based on House of Commons procedures. The Executive Committee has delegated authority to the Audit Committee to regularly monitor and scrutinise the Risk Register and to take appropriate action where

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

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

## **Review of Effectiveness**

It is a significant enhancement to the Group’s overall corporate governance that the Executive Committee adopted in October 2012 a multi-year Strategic Business Plan, governing the period 2013/14 to 2015/16. A new multi-year Strategic Business Plan will be considered by the Executive Committee in the course of its work in the lead up to the 2016/17 year of activity. This long-term planning process combined with appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms allows the Group to be in a stronger position

to assess its effectiveness with key objectives. The inclusion of an indicative annual programme also allows the Executive Committee to better judge the scope and level of inter-parliamentary activity, in addition to ensuring the impact of key outcomes in meeting the Group's goals.

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

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

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

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

*(Signed)*  
F Hamilton MP  
**Honorary Treasurer**  
Date: 15 July 2015



## **Statement of the Executive Committee's responsibilities**

Under the BGIPU's rules, the duties of the Executive Committee of the BGIPU include control and expenditure of the organisation's funds. It is also required to ensure that financial statements (duly audited) are prepared. The Executive Committee of the BGIPU has accepted responsibility for the preparation of these financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015 which are intended by them to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and of the surplus or deficit for that period. The Executive Committee has accepted that the financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In preparing these financial statements, the Executive Committee has:

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

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

### **Disclosure of information to auditors**

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

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

We have audited the financial statements of British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the year ended 31 March 2015 set out on the following pages, which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared for the reasons and on the basis set out in note 1 to the financial statements.

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

### **Respective responsibilities of the Executive Committee and auditors**

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

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

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

We read the other information contained in the Annual Governance Statement and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

## **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the organisation's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the members; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

## **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the organisation's affairs as at 31 March 2015 and of its results for the year then ended and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

## **Opinion on Annual Governance Statement**

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

*(Signed)*

### **Kreston Reeves LLP**

Statutory Auditors & Chartered  
Accountants

Third Floor

24 Chiswell Street

London

EC1Y 4YX

Date: 15 September 2015

## Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2015

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
<b>Income</b>			
Grant in aid	1	<b>1,072,800</b>	1,139,400
Donations/ Subscriptions received from members	1	<b>101</b>	137
Interest receivable	1	<b>646</b>	910
Other income		-	530
		<u><b>1,073,547</b></u>	<u>1,140,977</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Subscriptions		<b>399,791</b>	450,521
Conferences, IPU seminars and outward delegations		<b>257,849</b>	179,401
Inward delegations, BGIPU seminars and days in Parliament		<b>168,220</b>	124,179
All party groups		<b>15,949</b>	23,263
Salaries, national insurance and other staff costs	7	<b>413,724</b>	406,838
Printing, stationery and publications		<b>3,148</b>	3,727
Postage and telephone		<b>411</b>	482
Publishing and public relations		<b>5,664</b>	6,376
Audit fee for the audit of these financial statements		<b>7,029</b>	6,940
Insurance		<b>5,281</b>	5,187
General hospitality		<b>1,431</b>	790
Legal fees		-	540
Sundry expenses		<b>4,884</b>	4,804
Depreciation of fixed assets	2	<b>4,163</b>	3,396
		<u><b>1,287,544</b></u>	<u>1,216,444</u>
<b>Deficit for the year</b>	<b>5</b>	<u><b>(213,997)</b></u>	<u>(75,467)</u>

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

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

Notes 1 to 11 form part of the financial statements.

**Balance sheet**  
**at 31 March 2015**

	Note	2015		2014	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>	2		<b>10,893</b>		11,984
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors		1,268		4,311	
Prepayments and accrued income		<b>328,635</b>		320,337	
Cash at bank and in hand	3	<u>478,375</u>		<u>593,505</u>	
		<b>808,278</b>		918,153	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors	4	<u>(167,871)</u>		<u>(64,840)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u><b>640,407</b></u>		<u>853,313</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u><b>651,300</b></u>		<u>865,297</u>
<b>Financed by:</b>					
General fund	5		<u><b>651,300</b></u>		<u>865,297</u>
			<u><b>651,300</b></u>		<u>865,297</u>

Notes 1 to 11 form part of the financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the undersigned and authorised for issue on 15 September 2015.

*(Signed)*  
F Hamilton MP  
**Honorary Treasurer**

*(Signed)*  
N Evans MP  
**Chairman**

## Cash flow statement at 31 March 2015

	Note	2015	2014
		£	£
Net cash flow from operating activities	8	<b>(112,704)</b>	(32,644)
Returns on investments	9	<b>646</b>	910
Capital expenditure	9	<b>(3,072)</b>	(2,625)
<b>Decrease in cash in the year</b>		<b><u>(115,130)</u></b>	<b><u>(34,359)</u></b>

### Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds at 31 March 2015

	Note	2015	2014
		£	£
Decrease in cash in the year		<b>(115,130)</b>	(34,359)
<b>Movement in net funds in the year</b>		<b><u>(115,130)</u></b>	<b><u>(34,359)</u></b>
Net funds at 1 April 2014		<b>593,505</b>	627,864
<b>Net funds at 31 March 2015</b>	10	<b><u>478,375</u></b>	<b><u>593,505</u></b>

Notes 1 to 11 form part of the financial statements.

# **Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015**

## **1 Accounting policies**

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

### **1.1 Basis of preparation**

The British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union acts as an autonomous body within Parliament and is an independent parliamentary association. As such it is not required by law to comply with the requirements of the Companies Act and generally accepted accounting principles. However, as explained in the Statement of Executive Committee's responsibilities, the Executive Committee has accepted that these financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

### **1.2 Fixed assets and depreciation**

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

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

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

### **1.3 Pension costs**

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

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

#### **1.4 Grant in aid**

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

Grant in aid for the year ended 31 March 2015 of £1,072,800 (2014: £1,139,400) has been provided by the House of Commons and the House of Lords; contributing 70% and 30% respectively.

#### **1.5 Conference, delegation and all party group expenditure**

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

#### **1.6 Interest receivable**

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

#### **1.7 Donations / Subscriptions received**

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



## 2 Tangible fixed assets

	Paintings	Commemorative bell	Office equipment	Computers & software	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>					
At beginning of year	3,183	890	2,413	22,121	28,607
Additions	-	-	-	3,072	3,072
Disposals	-	-	-	(2,098)	(2,098)
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>3,183</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>2,413</b>	<b>23,095</b>	<b>29,581</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At beginning of year	-	-	1,270	15,353	16,623
Charge for year	-	-	317	3,846	4,163
Disposals	-	-	-	(2,098)	(2,098)
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>17,101</b>	<b>18,688</b>
<b>Net book value</b>					
<b>At 31 March 2015</b>	<b>3,183</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>5,994</b>	<b>10,893</b>
At 31 March 2014	3,183	890	1,143	6,768	11,984

## 3 Cash at bank and in hand

	2015	2014
	£	£
Interest earning bank deposit accounts	467,717	583,059
Non-interest earning bank deposit account	10,000	9,970
Cash in hand	658	476
	<b>478,375</b>	<b>593,505</b>

## 4 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2015	2014
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,263	6,404
Accruals and prepaid income	157,337	49,719
Social security and other taxes	9,271	8,717
	<b>167,871</b>	<b>64,840</b>

## 5 General fund

### General Fund

	£
Balance at 31 March 2014	865,297
Deficit for the year	<u>(213,997)</u>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2015</b>	<b><u>651,300</u></b>

In accordance with HM Government accounting rules, the annual grant in aid income awarded to the organisation is not paid to the BGIPU until the funds are actually required to meet expenditure budgeted for the year. The BGIPU declares to the funding provider surplus funds from the previous year before grant in aid is paid. The funding provider advances cash to the organisation when it is required to meet expenditure.

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

## 6 Tax status

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

## 7 Staff costs

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

The average number of employees of the BGIPU during the year was 8 (2014: 8).

## 8 Net cash flow from operating activities

	2015	2014
	£	£
Deficit for the year	<b>(213,997)</b>	(75,467)
Depreciation on tangible fixed assets	<b>4,163</b>	3,396
Interest received	<b>(646)</b>	(910)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors and prepayments	<b>(5,255)</b>	42,497
Increase/(Decrease)in creditors and accruals	<b>103,031</b>	(2,160)
<b>Net cash outflow from operating activities</b>	<b><u>(112,704)</u></b>	<u>(32,644)</u>

## 9 Analysis of cash flows for headings netted in cash flow statement

	2015	2014
	£	£
<b>Return on investments</b>		
Interest received	<b>646</b>	910
	<b>2015</b>	2014
	£	£
<b>Capital expenditure</b>		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(3,072)</b>	(2,625)

## 10 Analysis of changes in net debt

	1 April 2014	Cash flow	<b>31 March 2015</b>
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>593,505</u>	<u>(115,130)</u>	<u><b>478,375</b></u>

## 11 Published financial statements

The approved financial statements will be made publicly available on the website of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at [www.bgipu.org](http://www.bgipu.org).

**IPU**  
**HEADQUARTERS**

## Executive Committee of the IPU

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

<b>Members</b>	Expiry of term
<b><i>President:</i></b>	
Mr S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh)	October 2017
<b><i>Members:</i></b>	
Mr. R.M.Kh. Al Shariqi (United Arab Emirates)	April 2017
Ms. C. Cerqueira (Angola)	October 2019
Mr. R. del Picchia (France)	October 2018
Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria)	October 2018
Ms. G. Eldegard (Norway)	October 2019
Mr. E. Ethuro (Kenya)	October 2019
Ms. A. Habibou (Niger)	March 2019
Mr. K. Jalali (Islamic Republic of Iran)	October 2019
Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation)	October 2019
Mr. I. Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom)	October 2017
Mr. A. Lins (Brazil)	October 2019
Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia)	March 2016
Mr. N. Schrijver (Netherlands)	October 2017
Mr. S. Suzuki (Japan)	October 2018
Mr. Tran Van Hang (Viet Nam)	October 2019
Mr. D. Vivas (Venezuela)	October 2016

## **Liaison with the International Secretariat**

The BGIPU Secretariat has maintained regular and constructive contact with the IPU Secretariat in Geneva on a wide range of issues on the IPU agenda. In addition, the BGIPU Secretariat hosted a working visit of IPU Secretary General in London during January 2015 and one further staff member on a separate visit.

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

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

Telephone: +41 22 919 41 50 Fax: +41 22 919 41 60  
E-Mail: [postbox@mail.ipu.org](mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org)  
Website: [www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)

## National Groups of the IPU

As of October 2015 there are 167 Members and 10 Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

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

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

## **Associate Members**

Andean Parliament

Central American Parliament

East African Legislative Assembly

European Parliament

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

Latin American Parliament

Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States

Parliament of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Arab Parliament



**ALL-PARTY  
PARLIAMENTARY  
GROUPS**

## **Details of funding granted in support of All Party Parliamentary Group Activities in the period Mid-November 2014 to Mid-November 2015**

Each year, BGIPU approves financial assistance to a range of All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) which apply for support. APPGs eligible for BGIPU support consists of informal cross party groupings of parliamentarians from both Houses with an interest in the affairs of a specific country, including exchanges with parliamentary counterparts in that country. Funding for this activity is included within grant in aid received from the two Houses. The current maximum is £5,000 in total grants per APPG per financial year.

The approved budget for assistance to APPGs in 2014-15 was £30,000. For the Annual Report, the period of focus is between Annual General Meetings, rather than the Financial Years. Detail of support given since mid-November 2014 until time of writing follows:

### **APPG for Thailand**

Assistance totalling £2,803.04 was provided in support of an outward delegation of three parliamentarians plus one official, led by Roger Godsiff MP to visit Thailand from 10-15 November 2014. A full report is published on the BGIPU website.

### **APPG for Denmark**

Assistance totalling £150 was provided for a lunch in Parliament organised by Lord Craigavon to host the new Danish Ambassador on 2nd December 2014. Additional assistance totalling £150 was also provided for a lunch in Parliament organised by Lord Craigavon to introduce the new team of APPG officers to the Danish Ambassador on 9th September 2015.

### **APPG for Lebanon**

Assistance totalling £2,375.92 was provided for an outward delegation of three parliamentarians led by APPG Chair Andy Love MP from 8–12 March 2015. A full report is published on the BGIPU website.

### **APPG for Finland**

Assistance totalling £85 was provided for a lunch in Parliament organised by Lord Craigavon to welcome the new Finnish Ambassador

on 15th September 2015.

**APPG for Norway**

Assistance totalling £75 was provided to cover an associated lunch in connection to a visit by 11 Norwegian Parliamentarians organised by Lord Craigavon 15th October 2015.

# THE SECRETARIAT OF THE BRITISH GROUP IPU

	<b>Position</b>	<b>Commenced</b>
Mr Rick Nimmo	Director	May 2012
Ms Dominique Rees MBE	Deputy Director	March 1998
Ms Jackie Rhodes	Finance & Administration Manager	January 2010
Ms Gabriella Liberotti	International Project Manager	June 2008
Ms Sophia Ostler	International Project Manager	August 2011
Ms Anja Richter	International Project Manager	December 2014
Ms Emily Davies	International Project Manager	June 2015
Ms Alison MacDonald	Human Resources Consultant	July 2012
Ms Moyosoré Shodipo	Finance & Administrative Assistant	March 2013

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

### Postal Address

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

### Office of the Secretariat

LG15, Fielden House, 13 Little College Street SW1P 3SH

### Telephone

00 44 (0)20 7219 3011

### Fax

00 44 (0)20 7219 8780

### E-mail

[bgipu@parliament.uk](mailto:bgipu@parliament.uk)

### Website

[www.bgipu.org](http://www.bgipu.org)



