

PREAMBLE

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (“the United Kingdom”) and the Government of the Republic of India (“India”), hereinafter referred to individually as a “Party” or jointly as “the Parties”,

REINFORCING the longstanding bonds of friendship, cooperation and people-to-people linkages between them;

BUILDING on their longstanding and strong partnership based on common principles and values, and their important economic and trade relationship;

SEEKING to establish a clear, transparent, and predictable legal framework that supports further expansion of trade, to enhance the competitiveness of their economies, and to eliminate, and avoid the creation of, barriers between them;

ACKNOWLEDGING the important role and contribution of business in expanding trade between the Parties and the need to further promote and facilitate cooperation and utilisation of the greater business opportunities provided by this Agreement;

EMPHASISING the need to support the growth and development of small and medium-sized enterprises by enhancing their ability to participate in and benefit from the opportunities created by this Agreement;

RECOGNISING the importance of ensuring certainty and reducing barriers for service suppliers of the Parties by agreeing to commitments which will expand trade in services and facilitate temporary movement of natural persons between the Parties;

RECOGNISING the interaction between trade and innovation, and the contribution of both to economic growth, and seeking to expand and deepen their bilateral cooperation in this area;

NOTING the importance of facilitating new opportunities for businesses and consumers through digital trade;

AIMING to enhance participation in mutual recognition frameworks between the Parties or their authorities;

AFFIRMING the importance of development and inclusive economic growth, including in increasing the ability of forest dwellers in India, local communities and socially and educationally disadvantaged groups to access and fully benefit from the opportunities created by this Agreement, taking into account the context, challenges, and capabilities of each Party;

SEEKING to increase women’s access to and ability to fully benefit from the opportunities created by this Agreement, including with respect to women from rural areas, marginalised communities, and economically vulnerable backgrounds;

RESOLVING to promote transparency, good governance, and the rule of law;

RECOGNISING their right to regulate and to preserve the flexibility of the Parties to set legislative and regulatory priorities, in particular, the need to protect national security and legitimate public welfare objectives such as health (including public health), labour rights, safety, food security, environmental protection (including climate change) and conservation of exhaustible natural resources, integrity and stability of the financial system, and public morals, in accordance with the rights and obligations provided in this Agreement;

BUILDING on their respective rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement and other international agreements relating to matters covered by this Agreement to which both Parties are party;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for a mutually beneficial trade agreement that encourages trade flows to the economic benefit of both the Parties;

AIMING to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of their economies and to expand trade between the Parties;

HAVE AGREED as follows: