



Treaty Series No. 4 (2026)

Agreement

between the United Nations as represented by the United Nations Environment Programme in its capacity of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the Twelfth Session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES 12), the Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies, the Regional Consultations and Stakeholder Day, Manchester, United Kingdom, 01 – 09 February 2026

Nairobi, 10 December 2025

[The Agreement entered into force 10 December 2025]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
by Command of His Majesty
January 2026*



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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AS REPRESENTED
BY THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN ITS
CAPACITY OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM
SERVICES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND REGARDING THE
TWELFTH SESSION OF THE PLENARY OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON
BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES 12), THE
SESSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES, THE REGIONAL
CONSULTATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER DAY
MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM, 01 - 09 FEBRUARY 2026**

WHEREAS the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (“**IPBES**”), at its eleventh session, has accepted the invitation of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, represented by His Majesty’s Government (“**the UK**”), in its Decision IPBES-11/2, to hold the twelfth session of the Plenary of IPBES;

WHEREAS the Plenary of IPBES, by its Decision 11/2, decided that the Meeting would tentatively be held in January 2026 and requested the Executive Secretary to confirm the exact dates as soon as possible after consultation with the Bureau and the UK, taking into account the dates of other international meetings;

WHEREAS the Plenary of IPBES, by its Decision 11/2, and requested the Executive Secretary to continue consultations with the UK and to negotiate and finalize a Host Country Agreement for convening the Meeting in conformity with United Nations General Assembly resolution 40/243 and in compliance with the provisions of the United Nations administrative instruction ST/AI/342;

WHEREAS the UK, at the request of the secretariat, agreed to host and assist the secretariat in organizing additional mandated meetings to be convened in conjunction with the Meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, the UN as represented by the United Nations Environment Programme (“**UNEP**”) and the UK (collectively, the “**Parties**”) have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Date and Place of the Meeting

1. The plenary shall be held in Manchester, United Kingdom from 03 to 08 February 2026. The plenary shall be preceded by meetings of the IPBES subsidiary bodies on 01 February 2026 and regional consultations, a Stakeholder Day on 02 February 2026 and a media conference on 9 February 2026 (together, the “**Meeting**”).

ARTICLE 2

Attendance at the Meeting

1. The participants of the Meeting (the “**Participants**”) shall be invited by UNEP /IPBES secretariat, and shall include:
 - a. Representatives of Member and observer States of IPBES;
 - b. Representatives of Member and Observer States of the United Nations and of its specialized and related agencies;
 - c. Representatives of the United Nations, its intergovernmental organs, and its specialized agencies and related organizations;
 - d. Representatives of non-governmental organizations accredited by UNEP /IPBES secretariat;
 - e. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations accredited by UNEP /IPBES secretariat;
 - f. Officials and experts on mission of UNEP ;
2. In addition, the Executive Secretary of IPBES, shall designate officials to service the Meeting (“**UNEP/IPBES secretariat designated officials**”).
3. The public sessions of the Meeting shall be open to representatives of information media accredited by the United Nations, UNEP and/or the IPBES secretariat at its discretion after consultation with the UK.
4. IPBES shall provide the names of accredited entities no later than 14 November 2025, and the names of individual registered delegates no later than 8 December 2025.

ARTICLE 3

Premises, Equipment, Utilities and Supplies

1. The UK shall provide, at its own expense, such premises, including conference rooms, office space, and related facilities as are necessary for the Meeting, details of which will be specified in the logistical arrangement (the “**Premises**”). The UK shall, at its own expense, furnish, equip and maintain in good repair the premises for the effective conduct of the Meeting. The relevant conference rooms shall be equipped with WIFI, and for reciprocal simultaneous interpretation between six languages. The relevant conference rooms shall have facilities for sound

recording in that number of languages as well as facilities for press, television, radio and film operations, to the extent required by the United Nations.

2. The Premises shall remain at the disposal of UNEP/IPBES secretariat 24 hours a day, for the duration of the Meeting. The specifics in logistical arrangement may be modified no later than 7 days before the Meeting, as agreed in writing between the Parties, considering factors such as the number of Participants. The UK shall provide on the Premises, a business centre equipped as provided in the logistical arrangement, as well as appropriate eating facilities, for the use of Participants on a commercial basis.

3. For the purpose of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly on 13 February 1946 (“**the General Convention**”), the Premises shall be deemed to constitute premises of the United Nations within the meaning of Article II, Section 3 of the General Convention, and access thereto shall be subject to UNEP’s authority and control. The Premises, including any information and communications facilities located thereon, shall be inviolable for the whole period during which the premises are at the UNEP/IPBES secretariat’s disposal.

4. The UK shall bear the cost of all necessary utility services, including local telephone communications, of the secretariat of the Meeting and its communications by internet, telephone or telex.

ARTICLE 4

Accommodation

The UK shall offer information on adequate accommodation in hotels at a reasonable proximity to the Premises and at reasonable commercial rates for UNEP/IPBES secretariat to make available to Participants.

ARTICLE 5

Medical Facilities

The UK shall provide, within the Premises, medical facilities for emergency first aid appropriate for the number of Participants and UNEP/IPBES secretariat designated officials. The UK shall assure immediate transportation and admission to hospitals in case of serious emergencies.

ARTICLE 6

Transport

The UK shall provide information on the availability of transport, as well as location of medical centres and emergency numbers for UNEP to make available to Participants.

ARTICLE 7

Police Protection

1. The UK shall furnish at its own expense such police protection as may be required to ensure the efficient functioning of the Meeting in an atmosphere of security and tranquillity free from interference of any kind. While such police services shall be under the direct supervision and control of a senior officer to be provided by the UK, this officer shall work in close cooperation with a designated official of UNEP/IPBES secretariat.
2. Security arrangements provided through such police services shall satisfy the United Nations Enhanced Minimum Operating Security Standards as applicable in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

ARTICLE 8

Local Personnel

1. The UK shall appoint a liaison officer who shall be responsible, in consultation with UNEP/IPBES secretariat, for making and carrying out the administrative, communications, personnel and logistical arrangements for the Meeting and related events as required under this Agreement. The liaison officer shall lead a coordination team consisting of personnel provided by the UK, who shall work closely with UNEP/IPBES secretariat designated officials.
2. The UK, at its own expense, shall provide local support personnel necessary for the effective functioning of the Meeting, who shall be placed under the supervision of the UNEP/IPBES secretariat designated officials. The exact requirements in this respect shall be stipulated in the logistical arrangement. Some of these personnel shall be available at least 1 day before the opening of the Meeting and until 1 day after its close, as required by the UNEP /IPBES secretariat.

ARTICLE 9

Financial Arrangements

1. The UK, in addition to the financial obligations provided for elsewhere in this Agreement, shall, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/140, section I, paragraph 5, bear the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved in holding the Meeting in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland rather than at Bonn, Germany. Such costs, which are provisionally estimated at approximately GBP 1,400,000 (equivalent to US\$ 1,881,720) shall include, but not be restricted to, the actual additional costs of travel and staff entitlements of the officials of the IPBES secretariat and other United Nations officials assigned to plan for, service or attend the Meeting and the additional costs of travel and subsistence payments of Participants who are representatives of Member States that are developing countries. UNEP shall make the arrangements for the travel of UNEP members in accordance with the UN Staff Regulations and Rules and its related administrative practices regarding travel standard, baggage allowances, subsistence payments and terminal expenses.

2. The UK shall, not later than 30 November 2025, deposit the sum of \$US 169,626 (GBP 125,799) representing the shipment and the actual additional costs of travel and staff entitlements of the officials of the secretariat and other United Nations officials assigned to plan for, service or attend the Meeting referred to in paragraph 17. If necessary, The UK shall make further advances as requested by UNEP so that the latter shall not at any time have to finance temporarily from its cash resources the extra costs that are the UK's responsibility. The UK's deposit and any advances shall be used only to pay the obligations of UNEP in respect of the Meeting.

3. Within three months after the Meeting, UNEP shall give the UK a detailed set of accounts showing the actual additional costs incurred by UNEP and to be borne by the UK pursuant to paragraph 17. These costs shall be expressed in United States dollars, using the United Nations official rate of exchange at the time the payments are made. UNEP, on the basis of this detailed set of accounts, shall refund to the UK any funds unspent out of the deposit or the advances required by paragraph 17. Should the actual additional costs exceed the deposit, the UK shall remit the outstanding balance within one month of the receipt of the detailed accounts.

4. The final accounts shall be subject to audit as provided in the Financial Regulations and Rules of the UN, and the final adjustment of accounts shall be subject to any observations which may arise from the audit carried out by the United Nations Board of Auditors, whose determination shall be accepted as final by UNEP and the UK.

ARTICLE 10

Liability

1. The UK shall be responsible for dealing with any action, claim or other demand against the United Nations, UNEP or its members arising out of:
 - a. Injury to persons or damage to or loss of property in the Premises; and
 - b. Injury to persons or damage to or loss of property caused by, or incurred in using, any transport services that are provided for the Meeting by or under the control of the UK; and
 - c. The employment for the Meeting of the personnel provided by the UK under Article 8.
2. The UK shall indemnify and hold harmless the United Nations, UNEP and any of its officials in respect of any such action, claim or other demand, except where the UK and the Secretary-General of the United Nations agree, or, absent such agreement, where it is determined in accordance with Article 14 below, that such action, claim or other demand arises from the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of UNEP/IPBES secretariat officials.

ARTICLE 11

Privileges and Immunities

1. The General Convention shall be applicable in respect of the Meeting. In particular,
 - a. Representatives of Members and Observer States of the United Nations shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided under article IV of the General Convention;
 - b. Officials of the United Nations, including UNEP/IPBES secretariat, participating and/or performing functions in connection with the Meeting shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided under articles V and VII of the General Convention.
 - c. Any experts on mission of the United Nations in connection with the Meeting shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided under Articles VI and VII of the General Convention.
2. Representatives and officials of the specialized agencies of the United Nations participating in and/or performing functions in connection with the Meeting shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided by the Convention on the

Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947 in connection with the Meeting.

3. Representatives and officials of the related organizations of the United Nations participating in and/or performing functions in connection with the Meeting, shall, as appropriate, enjoy the privileges and immunities accorded to them under the existing international agreements listed below, as well as related UK national legislation, in connection with the Meeting:

- The Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Atomic Energy Agency
- The Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court;
- The Co-operation Agreement between the International Organization for Migration and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority;
- The Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea;
- The Agreement between the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Privileges and Immunities of the OPCW;
- The Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization on the conduct of activities, including post-certification activities, relating to International Monitoring Facilities for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; and
- The Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.

4. Without prejudice to the preceding paragraphs, all Participants shall enjoy such facilities and courtesies as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Meeting.

5. Without prejudice to the privileges and immunities provided for under international agreements to which the UK is a party, the privileges, immunities and facilities provided for in this Agreement are granted to ensure the proper functioning of the Meeting and not for the personal benefit of any individual.

6. The personnel provided by the UK under Article 8 above shall be placed under the full and sole direction and supervision of the Executive Secretary of IPBES. The UK undertakes to take all necessary measures to ensure that the personnel are able to perform their functions in relation to the Meeting with complete independence.

7. Without prejudice to the privileges and immunities conferred by this Agreement, it is the duty of all Participants to respect the laws and regulations in force in the UK.

8. This Agreement does not confer any privilege or immunity on any person as the representative of the UK or as a member of the official staff of such a representative, who is a British citizen, British overseas territories citizen, British overseas citizen, British national (overseas) or permanent resident of the UK.

9. The right to waive the privileges and immunities conferred under this Article shall be exercised in a manner consistent with the privileges and immunities accorded under international agreements to which the United Kingdom is a party, and which are referenced in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 12

Right of Entry and Exit

1. Participants accorded privileges and immunities, facilities and courtesies under Article 11 shall have the right of unimpeded entry into and exit from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Visas, entry and exit permits, where required, should be issued free of charge and as speedily as possible. When related applications are made more than four weeks before the opening of the Meeting, visas should be issued no later than one week before the date of the Meeting's opening. If related applications are made less than four weeks before the opening of the Meeting, the visa should be issued as speedily as possible. This does not exclude the presentation to the Executive Secretary of IPBES, of well-founded objections based on law concerning the entry of a particular individual. Such objections, however, must relate to specific criminal, security, including national or border security, matters and not to nationality, religion, professional or political affiliation. Arrangements shall also be made to ensure that visa waivers for the duration of the Meeting are considered where appropriate by the Border Force National Command Centre of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland authorities in the event that a confirmed Participant would present at a port of departure with intention to travel to a port of entry of the UK without the requisite visa. Every effort will be made by all parties to encourage Participants to attempt to secure the relevant visa in advance of presenting at a port of departure with intention of arrival at a UK port of entry, and it is agreed that any waivers are on an exceptional basis only, which decision will be made following consultation between the Parties. The UK shall appoint an official who shall act as a liaison officer between the UK and the

UNEP/IPBES secretariat and shall be responsible for carrying out the arrangements related to visas, visa waivers and entry permits.

2. The UK shall provide a letter to support visa and permit applications for all Participants and UNEP/IPBES secretariat designated officials.

ARTICLE 13

Import and Export

1. The UK shall allow, tax-free and duty-free the temporary importation and exportation of all necessary documents, publications, and equipment, including technical equipment accompanying representatives of information media. The UK shall waive any import or other duties and taxes on equipment and supplies required for the Meeting and shall issue without delay any necessary import and export permits for this purpose.

2. All persons referred to in paragraphs 2 to 4, shall have the right to take out of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the time of their departure, without any restriction, any unexpended portions of the funds they brought into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the Meeting.

ARTICLE 14

Settlement of Disputes

1. Any dispute concerning the interpretation or the application of this Agreement, except for a dispute subject to Section 30 of the General Convention or of any other applicable agreement shall, unless the Parties otherwise agree, be resolved by negotiations or any other agreed mode of settlement. Any such dispute that is not so settled shall be submitted at the request of a Party for a final decision to a tribunal of three arbitrators, one who shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations; one by the UK; and the third, who shall be the Chairman, by the other two arbitrators.

2. If one Party does not appoint an arbitrator within 60 days of the other Party having notified the name of its arbitrator, or if the first two arbitrators do not within 60 days of the appointment or nomination of the second one of them appoint a Chairman, then such arbitrator shall be nominated by the President of the International Court of Justice at the request of a Party to the dispute. Except as otherwise agreed by the Parties, the tribunal shall adopt its own rules of procedure, provide for the reimbursement of its members and the distribution of expenses between the Parties, and take all decisions by a two-thirds majority. Its decision on

all questions of procedure and substance shall be final and, even if rendered in default of one of the parties, be binding on all of them.

ARTICLE 15

Supplementary Arrangements

The Parties may enter into any other supplementary arrangements in relation to the organizational or logistical matters for the Meeting.

ARTICLE 16

Final Provisions

1. This Agreement may be modified by written agreement of the Parties. Each Party shall give full and sympathetic consideration to any proposal advanced by the other Party under this paragraph.

2. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last signature of the Parties, and shall remain in force for the duration of the Meeting and a period thereafter as is necessary for all matters relating to any of its provisions to be settled.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned duly authorized by the respective Parties, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Nairobi on this tenth day of December 2025, in two originals in the English language.

**For the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland:**

MARY CREAGH

**For the United Nations Environment
Programme:**

INGER ANDERSEN

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