

AN AUSTRALIAN FILM INITIATIVE

14th August 2023

Pauline Cullen | Committee Secretary
House Standing Committee on Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Department of the House of Representatives
PO Box 6021 | R1 109 Parliament House | Canberra ACT 2600

AAFI's Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties – Audiovisual Co-Production Agreement Between Australia and India

Dear Ms. Cullen

Thank you for inviting us to make submission with our comments on the Australia India Co production treaty.

An Australian Film Initiative's (AAFI) aim is to promote, distribute, and market Australian cinema to emerging and non traditional markets like India and provide a platform for Australia's extensive creative talent pool.

AAFI is in full support of the Audiovisual Co-Production Agreement. Our founder, Anupam Sharma believes that this treaty will bring two of the world's best production talent pools together in an encouraging and creative way.

Due to the recent signing of the Agreement and the limited resources provided online around the application of the Agreement. AAFI would request further clarification on the terms and conditions provided through in-person workshops and events.

We also respectfully provide the following request/suggestions/notes.

General

1. We request that the designated competent authorities in both countries initiate a plan to inform and education the film industries in the two countries about this co production treaty.

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2. We also request that film festivals/film events be made a part of this treaty as they are crucial to triggering projects and productive two way dialogue

Article 2:

1. This article dictates that each nation will be able to designate a competent authority to implement the Agreement.
2. AAFI believes that it would be beneficial to identify these authorities prior to the application of this Agreement given the absence of a central authority like Screen Australia in India

Article 8:

1. Article 8 states that each co-producer should make a financial and creative contribution of no less than 20%.
2. AAFI believes that the Australian producer offset is to be considered a contribution as it remains as an equity provided to another nation's producer.

Article 12.3:

1. Article 12.3 states that at least 90% of the footage included in an audiovisual co-production shall be specially shot for that audiovisual work.
2. This is a highly prohibitive term especially in regards to non-fiction works.

Submitted by An Australian Film Initiative

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