



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Trade Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 31 May 2010

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP
Deputy: Hon Bruce Scott MP

International Women's Development Agency to discuss women's role in trade relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America

Federal parliament's Trade Sub-Committee will hear from the International Women's Development Agency in Canberra this Wednesday (2 June), for its trade inquiry. The Sub-Committee is investigating Australia's trade and investment relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America.

Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee, Janelle Saffin, welcomed the opportunity to hear from the International Women's Development Agency about "the difficulties faced by women in seeking to share fully in the growth and development process in the countries covered by the terms of reference of this inquiry".

Ms Saffin continued, "The capacity of women to contribute to that growth process is often overlooked. We believe that their involvement in the process of developing our trade and investment relations will assist in achieving results that will benefit all parties".

She added that "we look forward to hearing some ideas that will help to overcome women's lack of involvement."

"The aim of the inquiry is to find ways to further expand Australia's trade and investment opportunities in the regions included in the terms of reference. The countries of these regions already account for three-quarters of Australia's total trade."

Ms Saffin said "the effects of the world financial crisis are still being felt and we need to aid the recovery process by grasping any new opportunities to develop our trade and investment relations. The Sub-Committee will be seeking to put some solid recommendations to the Government on ways to achieve those goals".

The Trade Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will hear from: the **International Women's Development Agency on Wednesday, 2 June 2010**. The hearing, from **11.00am** until **12 Noon**, will be in Committee Room 1R6, Parliament House, Canberra.

Submissions to the inquiry are still being accepted and may be emailed to jscfadt@aph.gov.au.

For all inquiries: please contact the Principal Research Officer of the Trade Sub-Committee by phone on (02) 6277 4547, via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm>