



## Review of African development treaty

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee will be holding a public hearing on Monday 26 November 2012 to examine whether Australia should become a member of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Development Fund (AfDF), otherwise known as the AfDB Group.

The AfDB and AfDF are respected and credible institutions. Membership of these organisations is expected to enable Australia to pursue its multilateral interests in Africa such as trade liberalisation, climate change, human rights and peace and security. Australia intends to have an active membership in the AfDB Group both financially and through participating in its governance.

"The AfDB and AfDF are not new institutions, having been established in 1963 and 1972 respectively," the Committee Chair, Mr Kelvin Thomson MP, said "but joining the AfDB Group now could potentially allow Australia to forge deeper and stronger links with African governments and become a trusted partner just as Africa is becoming increasingly important in the global economy. As a majority African owned development bank, the AfDB Group has a unique position in Africa and it is hoped that Australia will be able to build upon its AfDB Group membership to better form partnerships with African Governments."

The Committee will examine the government's claims at the hearing and will also examine two other treaties as listed below.

**Public Hearing: Monday 26 November 2012, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House  
Canberra**

- 9.15am**      **Agreement Establishing the African Development Fund, as amended  
(Abidjan, 29 November 1972)  
and  
Agreement Establishing the African Development Bank (Khartoum,  
4 August 1963)**
- 10.00am**     **Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of  
Japan on the Security of Information (Tokyo, 17 May 2012)**
- 10.30am**     **Loan Agreement between Australia and the International Monetary Fund  
(Tokyo, 13 October 2012)**

The hearing will be broadcast through: [www.aph.gov.au/live](http://www.aph.gov.au/live)

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at:  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=jsct/under\\_review.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsct/under_review.htm).

Alternatively, interested parties may email [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au) or phone (02) 6277 4002.

### MEDIA CONTACTS

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