



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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

Chair: Sen Marise Payne

Reform of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights

Roundtable Public Hearing:

9:00am – 12:00 pm
12 August 2005

Committee Room 2S1
Parliament House, Canberra

The Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade is holding a public hearing on reform of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights this Friday (12 August) in 2S1 at Parliament House.

The Human Rights Sub-Committee, chaired by NSW Senator Marise Payne, will be holding a roundtable discussion with United Nations representatives, non-government organisations and legal and human rights experts. These discussions are part of the Sub-Committee's inquiry into the 2003-2004 Annual Report of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade focusing specifically on reform of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The topic is timely in light of the upcoming September summit of Heads of State and Government at the United Nations in New York, where a wide range of UN reforms will be discussed in the context of proposals set out in the UN Secretary-General's recent report entitled *In Larger Freedom*. One of the Secretary-General's proposals in that report is that member states replace the Commission on Human Rights with a smaller Human Rights Council.

The public hearing will be webcast at www.aph.gov.au/live and broadcast internally on House Monitoring System channel 9.

For media comment: please contact Senator Marise Payne (Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee on (02) 9893 5151 (electorate office) or (02) 6277 3810 (Parliament)

For all other queries: please contact Sara Edson in the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4547

For the terms of reference: visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/chr/