



## **Support IMF and World Bank accountability reform says Treaties Committee**

The Australian Parliament's Treaties Committee has released a report recommending that Australia support efforts to reform the accountability of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The Committee has used its review of three treaties reforming the IMF and World Bank as an opportunity to encourage the Australian Government to enhance its already healthy reputation in the world community by advocating for a more representative and accountable IMF and World Bank.

"It is clear that the international community views these three treaties only as an important first step in the process of reform," the Committee Chair Kelvin Thomson said.

"Australia was influential in bringing these reforms about, and the Committee believes that Australia should use its influence to keep the reform process going. The benefits derived from the goodwill Australia will engender in the international community by leading the reform process will far outweigh the minor loss of voting power resulting from the reform."

Two of the three treaties increase the voting power of smaller member nations in the IMF and World Bank, reversing a trend consolidating power in the big economies since these organisations were formed. The third treaty diversifies the funding basis of the IMF so that it can derive operating funds from investments.

"Debate within the international community about representation and accountability in the IMF and World Bank has moved on from the modest reforms contained in these treaties," Mr Thomson said. "The Committee's recommendations reflect concrete proposals already being considered by these institutions."

The Committee's Report 107 also recommends binding treaty action in relation to six other international treaties:

- one taxation agreement with New Zealand;
- two taxation agreements with Jersey;
- one taxation agreement with Belgium;
- a recasting of the Chapeau Defence Agreement with the United States; and
- an agreement with the Republic of Singapore concerning the use of Shoalwater Bay Training Area and associated facilities.

Report 107 is available on the Committee's website:

**[www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm)** or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

**Media contact:** Kelvin Thomson MP (Mr Anthony Cianflone) (02) 6277 4633

**Background:** Mr Jerome Brown, Committee Secretary (02) 6277 4642