

Introduction

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report contains advice to Parliament on the review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of a series of proposed treaty actions tabled on 2 March 2004¹ involving the:
- *Consular Agreement between Australia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Hanoi, 29 July 2003)*
 - *World Tourism Organization (WTO) Statutes (Mexico City, 27 September 1970)*
 - *Instruments Amending the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992) as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998) (Marrakesh, 18 October 2002)*
 - *Agreement Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development (Rome, 13 June 1976).*

¹ *Senate Journal*, 2 March 2004, p. 3045 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 2 March 2004, p. 1463.

Briefing documents

- 1.2 The advice in this report refers to the National Interest Analyses (NIAs) prepared for the proposed treaty actions. Copies of the NIAs are available from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm> or may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat. These documents were prepared by the Government agency (or agencies) responsible for the administration of Australia's responsibilities under each treaty.
- 1.3 Copies of treaty actions and NIAs can also be obtained from the Australian Treaties Library maintained on the internet by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Australian Treaties Library is accessible through the Committee's website or directly at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat>.

Conduct of Committee's review

- 1.4 The Committee's review of the proposed treaty actions canvassed in this report was advertised in the national press and on the Committee's website.² In addition, letters inviting comment were sent to all State Premiers and Chief Ministers and to individuals who have expressed an interest in being kept informed of proposed treaty actions such as these. A list of submissions and their authors is at Appendix A, and a description of exhibits is at Appendix C.
- 1.5 The Committee also took evidence at three public hearings held on 8, 9 and 22 March 2004. A list of witnesses who gave evidence at the public hearings is at Appendix B. Transcripts of evidence from the public hearings can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's internet site at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm>.

2 The Committee's review of the proposed treaty actions was advertised in *The Australian* on 3 March 2004. Members of the public were advised how to obtain relevant information and the details of the public hearing on 8 March 2004.