



Treaties Committee supports establishment of the Global Crop Diversity Trust

Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, Andrew Southcott MP, today (Monday 29 May) tabled *Report 74*, which supports the *Agreement for the Establishment of the Global Crop Diversity Trust*.

The Agreement, through the establishment of the Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Trust) aims to secure the long-term conservation aims of the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* through long-term funding. Although established by a separate legal instrument, the Trust will operate within the framework of the International Treaty. The International Treaty provides a binding international framework for the conservation, sustainable use and exchange of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for global food security. The Committee's review of the International Treaty is included in Report 68.

In addition, accession to this treaty will allow Australia to attend the inaugural Governing Body Meeting of the International Treaty in mid June 2006 and seek a position on the Executive Board of the Trust.

"The Committee supports Australia's campaign to seek a position on the Executive Board of the Trust and believes that Australia's representation on the Executive Board will ensure appropriate consideration of Australia's interests at the upcoming meeting of the Governing Body of the International Treaty," Dr Southcott said.

Report 74 is available on the Committee's website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/report.htm>

or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Media contact:	John Deller (Dr Southcott's Office) (mobile)	(02) 6277 4283 0439 802 767
Background:	James Rees (Committee Secretary)	(02) 6277 4642