



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

21 February 2012

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

*Chair: Mr Michael Danby MP
Sub-Committee Chair: Mr Nick
Champion MP*

Overseas representation inquiry to focus on business experiences

Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade committee will discuss the convergence of Australia's diplomatic and business activities overseas at a public hearing in Melbourne.

Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee Chair Mr Nick Champion MP said the committee will examine the experiences international Australian businesses have had with Australia's overseas representatives.

"The committee will meet with the ANZ Bank and the Commonwealth Bank, which have significant interests in Indonesia where it has been suggested that Australia's diplomatic representation should be expanded," Mr Champion said. "The committee will seek the views of the banks and also their opinion on the performance of Australia's diplomats in those countries."

The committee will also meet with the Australia Africa Mining Industry Group (AAMIG) and the Australian Industry Group on Monday 27 February in Canberra.

"The committee's recent inquiry into Australia's relationship with Africa contained several recommendations aimed at strengthening Australia's representation in Africa, including in Francophone Africa and in West Africa. The Moroccan Ambassador has advocated the opening of an Australian embassy in Morocco—the committee will seek AAMIG's view on this proposal."

"The promotion of trade and business links is an important aspect of Australia's diplomatic activity. The committee will discuss Australia's performance with the Australian Industry Group."

The committee will also receive evidence on Australia's diplomatic footprint from the Committee for Melbourne, Professor John Langmore, and the United Macedonian Diaspora.

Program

Melbourne—Thursday, 23 February 2012—Committee Room G.6, Parliament of Victoria, 55 St Andrews Place

1.30 pm	ANZ Bank
2.10 pm	Committee for Melbourne
2.50 pm	Professor John Langmore
3.40 pm	United Macedonian Diaspora
4.15 pm	Commonwealth Bank

Canberra—Monday, 27 February 2012—Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House

5.10 pm	Australia Africa Mining Industry Group
5.50 pm	Australian Industry Group

Details of public hearings and submissions to the inquiry are available at the inquiry website [here](#).

For media inquiries contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Mr Nick Champion MP on (08) 8284 2422; Mobile: 0488 556 036.

For all other inquiries contact the Inquiry Secretary, John Carter, on (02) 6277 2313 or visit the Committee website.