



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 20 September 2012

Chair: Mr Nick Champion MP
Deputy: Dr Sharman Stone MP

International Fund for Agricultural Development Amendment Bill under scrutiny

The Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade has commenced an inquiry into whether Australia should rejoin the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The Inquiry will be conducted under the following terms of reference:

- *Whether the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has fully addressed the concerns that were raised by the former Howard Government and which prompted Australia to withdraw from the organisation in 2004; and*
- *Consideration of the additional financial and human resources required by AusAID to support Australia's engagement with IFAD.*

In 2004, [Report 60](#) by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties recommended that Australia withdraw from IFAD. A discussion can be found in Chapter 5 of that report; further discussion can also be found in the dissenting report.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development Amendment Bill, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Second Reading Speech by the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Richard Marles MP can be found [here](#).

Submissions are invited from interested organisations and individuals focussing specifically on the terms of reference.

Submissions should be emailed to jscfadt@aph.gov.au no later than **Friday, 5 October 2012**.

Further information about the Sub-Committee's inquiry is available at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>.

For media comment: please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Mr Nick Champion MP on (08) 8284 2422 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4451 (Parliament House)

For further information: please contact the Committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 2313** or via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au.