



## **Review of treaties on nuclear cooperation with Russia and the rights of people with disabilities**

The Federal Parliament’s Treaties Committee will hear evidence on five treaties tabled on 14 May 2008 and 4 June 2008. These treaties include an agreement with the Russian Federation on cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This agreement will allow Australian uranium to be used in approved Russian nuclear power plants, subject to strict safeguards conditions. It will also promote cooperation between the two countries in the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Australian uranium can only be exported to countries with which Australia has a nuclear safeguards agreement. Both countries will be obliged to ensure that no nuclear material transferred under the Agreement is ever used for, or diverted to, a military purpose.

The Committee will also consider the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which will promote, protect and ensure the human rights and fundamental freedoms of people with disabilities.

Parties to the Convention will be required to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability and to enhance the inclusion and participation of people with a disability in society. The Convention also contains provisions specifically relating to the protection of children, to ensuring individuals are recognised before law and to providing equal access to facilities and services open or provided to the community.

One in five Australians currently lives with a disability. This Convention reflects and affirms existing protections provided to people with disability under Australia’s domestic laws.

### **PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM 10.00 am-12.00 pm, Monday, 16 June 2008**

*Venue:* Committee Room 2R1, 2nd floor, Parliament House, Canberra

10.00 am	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
10.20 am	Treaty between Australia and the United States of America Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation
10.40 am	International Tropical Timber Agreement
11.00 am	Protocol amending the Agreement between Australia and South Africa for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income
11.20 am	Agreement between Australia and the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes

The public hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring Service, radio and webcast live on the Parliament House website at: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

Further information 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)

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