

Introduction

Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report contains the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties' review of the following treaty actions tabled on 3 March, 5 March and 12 May 2015:
 - Australia's withdrawal from the *World Tourism Organization (WTO) Statutes* (Mexico City, 27 September 1970);
 - Resolution A.1070(28) *IMO Instrument Implementation Code (III Code)* (London, 4 December 2013) and amendments to relevant IMO Conventions; and
 - *Protocol Establishing the Prolongation of the Treaty between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Australia on the Presence of Australian Personnel in the Netherlands for the Purpose of Responding to the Downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17.*
- 1.2 The Committee's resolution of appointment empowers it to inquire into any treaty to which Australia has become a signatory, on the treaty being tabled in Parliament.
- 1.3 The treaties, and matters arising from them, are evaluated to ensure that ratification is in the national interest, and that unintended or negative effects on Australians will not arise.
- 1.4 Prior to tabling, major treaty actions are subject to a National Interest Analysis (NIA), prepared by the Government. This document considers arguments for and against the treaty, outlines the treaty obligations and any regulatory or financial implications, and reports the results of consultations undertaken with State and Territory Governments, Federal and State and Territory agencies, and with industry or non-government organisations.

- 1.5 A Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) may accompany the NIA. The RIS provides an account of the regulatory impact of the treaty action where adoption of the treaty will involve a change in the regulatory environment for Australian business. An RIS was not required for any of the treaties under consideration in this report.
- 1.6 The Committee takes account of these documents in its examination of the treaty text, in addition to other evidence taken during the inquiry program.
- 1.7 A copy of the treaty and its associated documentation may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:
- http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties/3_March_2015;
 - http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties/5_March_2015; and
 - http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties/12_May_2015.

Conduct of the Committee's review

- 1.8 The treaty actions reviewed in this report were advertised on the Committee's website from the date of tabling. The Committee invited written submissions by 20 March 2015. The Committee did not invite written submissions for the third treaty as explained in Chapter 4 of this Report.
- 1.9 The Committee invited all State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and the Presiding Officers of each Parliament to lodge submissions. The Committee also invited submissions from individuals and organisations with an interest in the particular treaty under review.
- 1.10 The Committee held a public hearing into two of the treaties in Canberra on Monday 11 May 2015. There was no public hearing held into the third treaty as explained in Chapter 4 of this Report.
- 1.11 The transcript of evidence from the public hearing may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website under the treaties tabling date, being:
- 3 March and 5 March 2015.
- 1.12 A list of submissions received and their authors is at Appendix A.
- 1.13 A list of witnesses who appeared at the public hearing is at Appendix B.