

Introduction

Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report contains advice to the Parliament on the review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of a series of proposed treaty actions tabled on 14 May 2003¹ and 17 June 2003², specifically:

14 May 2003

- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste relating to the Unitisation of the Sunrise and Troubadour Fields, done at Dili on 6 March 2003;*
- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the Promotion and Protection of Investments, done at Canberra on 12 November 2002;*
- *Agreement on social security between Australia and the Kingdom of Belgium, done at Canberra on 20 November 2002;*
- *Agreement on social security between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Chile, done at Canberra on 25 March 2003;*

1 See *Senate Journal*, 14 May 2003, p. 1791 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 14 May 2003, p. 873.

2 See *Senate Journal*, 17 June 2003, pp. 1859-1860 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 17 June 2003, p. 962.

- *Agreement on Social Security between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, done at Vienna on 19 December 2002; and*
- *International Labour Organization Conventions:*
 - No. 83: Labour Standards (Non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention, 1947;*
 - No. 85: Labour Inspectorates (Non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention, 1947;*
 - No. 86: Contracts of Employment (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1947.*

17 June 2003

- *Agreement on Medical Treatment for Temporary Visitors between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, done at Canberra on 28 March 2003;*
- *Exchange of Notes, done at Canberra on 7 April – 27 May 2003, Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of the United States of America for the Financing of Certain Educational and Cultural Exchange Programmes of 28 August 1964;*
- *Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, done at Honolulu on 5 September 2000; and*
- *Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances 2000, done at London, 15 March 2000.*

- 1.2 The Committee deferred tabling its review of *Amendments to the Annex to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, including consideration and adoption of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code (London 12 December 2002)*,³ in order to investigate further the impact of the Convention on Australian ports and port facilities.

3 See *Senate Journal*, 14 May 2003, p. 1791 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 14 May 2003, p. 873.

Briefing documents

- 1.3 The advice in this report refers to National Interest Analyses (NIAs) prepared for these proposed treaty actions. Copies of the NIAs are available from the Committee's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm> or may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat. These documents were prepared by the Government agency (or agencies) responsible for the administration of Australia's responsibilities under each treaty.
- 1.4 Copies of treaty actions and NIAs can also be obtained from the Australian Treaties Library maintained on the internet by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Australian Treaties Library is accessible through the Committee's website or directly at: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat>.

Conduct of the committee's review

- 1.5 The Committee's review of the treaty actions canvassed in this report was advertised in the national press and on the Committee's website.⁴ In addition, letters inviting comment were sent to all State Premiers and Chief Ministers and to individuals who have expressed an interest in being kept informed of proposed treaty actions such as these. A list of submissions and their authors is at Appendix A.
- 1.6 The Committee also took evidence at two public hearings held on 16 and 23 June 2003. A list of witnesses who gave evidence at the public hearing is at Appendix B. A transcript of evidence from the public hearing can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's internet site at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index/htm>.

4 The Committee's review of the proposed treaty actions was advertised in *The Australian* on 28 May 2003 and 25 June 2003. Members of the public were advised on how to obtain relevant information and invited to submit their views to the Committee.