

## **Government Response to the 31<sup>st</sup> Report of the Joint Standing Committee of Treaties**

The Government thanks the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties for its consideration of three treaty actions reviewed in the 31<sup>st</sup> Report. The Report makes a recommendation relating to one of these treaty actions. The Government response to the recommendation is provided below.

### **Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel**

The Government is pleased that the Committee supported ratification of the *Convention for the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, done at New York on 9 November 1994* and recommended that binding treaty action be taken (2.17). Binding treaty action has been taken following the enactment of Commonwealth legislation.

The Government offers the following response to the recommendation put forward by the Committee in relation to this Agreement.

#### **2.19 The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties recommends that:**

**the Attorney-General and the Minister for Foreign Affairs develop and raise for discussion in appropriate international fora, proposals to strengthen the protection afforded to non-United Nations humanitarian and development assistance workers**

There is already substantive activity in this regard in international fora. The Government is participating in these international discussions and has established an inter-departmental consultative group to develop Australian proposals.

-----