

International Fund for Agricultural Development Amendment Bill 2012

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 13 September 2012

Portfolio: Foreign Affairs

Committee view

1.2 The committee draws the attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the requirement for each bill to be accompanied by a statement of compatibility.

Purpose of the bill

1.3 This bill amends the *International Fund for Agricultural Development Act 1977* to allow Australia to legally accede to the Agreement Establishing IFAD under Australian law by:

- amending the definition of 'Agreement' to ensure the legislation refers to the most recent version of the Agreement;
- repealing a section stating that membership of IFAD is approved; and
- removing the Schedule to the IFAD Act 1977 (as it refers the original IFAD Agreement) and replacing it with a web link to the most recent IFAD Agreement, which is updated as the Agreement is amended.

1.4 The committee has no substantive comments on this bill but notes that a statement of compatibility was not provided for this bill.

1.5 **The *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011* requires each bill and disallowable legislative instrument to be accompanied by a statement of compatibility. Proposed legislation that is not considered to raise any human rights issues is not exempt from this requirement. The committee proposes to write to the Minister to draw his attention to this requirement.**