

Mr Rick Nimmo, Director, British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU)

Mr Rick Nimmo has been Director of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) since 1 May 2012. Prior to this appointment, he was Director of the Political Governance and Security Programme of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in Suva, Fiji for three years and, before that, an Australian diplomat.

At PIFS, Mr Nimmo expanded the human security agenda of the Forum and undertook a range of innovative conflict prevention activities including deepening engagement with civil society, strengthening security sector governance, addressing sexual and gender-based violence and exploring the nexus between marginalised youth and conflict. He also facilitated inter-governmental debate on the merits of establishing regional human rights mechanisms for the Pacific, oversaw regional law enforcement and counter-terrorism cooperation and managed activities across a range of regional democracy, rule of law and good governance programmes. As Director, Mr Nimmo was the senior foreign policy adviser to the Secretary General of PIFS and organiser of Forum Leaders' Meetings in Port Moresby and Cairns in 2009, Port Vila in 2010 and Auckland in 2011.

After a period as a high school teacher, Mr Nimmo joined the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as a diplomatic trainee prior to diplomatic postings in Solomon Islands (1987-89), Papua New Guinea (1991-94), Sweden (1996-2000) and Fiji (2000). His most recent overseas appointment was as Counsellor to the Australian Mission to the UN in New York (2004-07) where he was head of the Political Section with wide-ranging responsibilities for UN General Assembly matters, the UN Security Council, UN reform, Africa, Middle East, the Asia-Pacific, peace and conflict matters, international counter-terrorism and public affairs. In 2008 he was Director of the Pacific Partnerships Taskforce of DFAT, establishing bilateral arrangements for Australia's Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme (PSWPS). Prior to that he was Director of the National Security Section with responsibilities for advising on international security and intelligence matters, including counter-terrorism, transport security, national resilience and crisis management issues, including key contributions to the Prime Minister's 2008 National Security Statement.

In other capacities in Canberra, Mr Nimmo worked twice in United States Section (1987 and 1994-96), as Director of the Pacific Regional Section (2001) and Director of Pacific Bilateral Section (2001-2003) where he created the conceptual and policy parameters for the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). He was subsequently Special Adviser to the Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism (2003-04), where he developed the initial policy plans with the Australian Federal Police and Indonesian counterparts for the highly-regarded Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC). In 2000, prior to promotion to Director-level, Mr Nimmo was the Executive Officer of Parliamentary Liaison Section where he was the DFAT contact point for the Parliamentary Relations Office (PRO) in arranging outward and inward parliamentary delegations and study visits and managed the Foreign Minister's Possible Parliamentary Question (PPQ) database.

Mr Nimmo was born in Melbourne, Australia on 12 July 1963 and was educated at Melbourne University, majoring in English and History. He is married to Ms Belinda Goldsmith, Editor in Chief of the Thomson Reuters Foundation and they have two children; a son studying Politics and American Studies at the University of Nottingham and a daughter studying Anthropology with Innovation at the University of Bristol.