

sound and socially responsible sustainable development ... [and that the resources of the NGOs] should be tapped, enabled and strengthened”⁶ In fact, *Agenda 21* specifically defines NGOs as “important partners in the implementation of Agenda 21” as well.⁷

The purpose of this paper is to explore, and to encourage discussion of, ways and means of enhancing the consultative participation of these “partners” in the work of the NPT review process. In the following four sections, the paper:

- examines the variety of modes of NGO participation in formal multilateral events and processes,
- reviews proposals for enhancing NGO participation in the multilateral system,
- reviews NGO participation in the NPT Review Process, and
- explores options for enhanced NGO participation in the NPT Review Process.

⁶ *Agenda 21*, Chapter 27, quoted by Simon Carroll, “NGO access to multilateral fora: does disarmament lag behind?” *Disarmament Forum* (UNIDIR, No. 1, 2002), p. 16.

⁷ *Agenda 21*, para 38:42.