

Accordingly, NGOs participated actively in the debates, including the development of the Treaty itself. The Treaty also made provision (Article 6, sub paras 3, 4, 7) for States Party to engage NGOs in bringing assistance to mine victims, in carrying out mine clearances, and in the development of national demining programs. The Treaty also makes provision for NGOs to participate as observers in the Annual meetings of States Party (Article 11.4), in Review Conferences (12.3), and in Amendment Conferences (13.3). The Rules of Procedure specifically give the International Campaign to Ban Landmines observer status, meaning that ICBL member NGOs can attend meetings of States Party as observers without specific clearance, while non-ICBL NGOs may also attend if the meeting approves (and, in practice, none has been refused). Observers may not participate in decision-making or raise procedural issues (Rule 24), but observers are assumed to be eligible to participate in debates and submit and receive documents.²⁴

NGOs and national delegations

One additional way in which NGOs have been drawn into the multilateral process is through NGO representatives included as advisory members of national delegations.

NGOs and the Security Council

While there is no formal process or mandate to link NGOs to the work of the Security Council, the Secretary-General, in his report on strengthening the UN, refers to "some innovative and creative measures to allow non-governmental voices to be heard by its members. The Arria formula, for example, enables non-governmental organizations to give testimony to Security Council members in relation to specific crises, as well as on such issues as children in armed conflict, outside the official meetings."²⁵ NGOs have encouraged additional and regular, but informal, briefings and consultations with national representatives, including representatives of the Permanent Five of Security Council Member States. Since 1995, a group of NGOs led by the Global Policy Forum has maintained an NGO Working Group on the Security Council and has developed what it calls a very positive interaction with the Security Council. In particular, humanitarian and human rights NGOs, and NGOs with regional expertise, have effectively used this process, which involves frequent briefings and meetings with senior officials and representatives of Member States.²⁶

²⁴ *Note by the President of the Conference on Disarmament.*

²⁵ *Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change*, Report of the Secretary-General (United Nations, General Assembly, September 9, 2002, A/57/387), para 137.

²⁶ March 26/03 discussion with James A. Paul, Executive Director, Global Policy Forum, New York.