

## PREFACE

In a fast-changing world, effective multilateralism is indispensable. Globalisation is not a synonym for chaos. It needs a rule-based framework to function properly.

The United Nations, with its universal mandate and legitimacy, is the pivot of the multilateral system. It is uniquely placed to serve as a platform for developing global solutions. In times of growing common challenges, from new security risks to managing the world economy, from state-building to combating climate change, this is all the more important.

The European Union is the UN's natural partner. Our commitment to effective multilateralism is not a rhetorical profession of faith. It is a defining principle of our foreign policy. We have a clear self-interest in advancing the global agenda, given our exposure to international opportunities and challenges. In addition, the EU, with its broad toolbox of foreign policy instruments, is particularly well-equipped to create synergies with the UN. Relations between the EU and the United Nations have thus developed over time into a rich network of interaction, spanning the entire range of EU external relations.

This book astutely analyses these various forms of cooperation: from crisis management to promoting long-term peace and security, from defending human rights to protecting the global commons, from fighting disease to fostering development and reducing poverty. In so doing it also reflects the growing role of the European Union as a responsible global actor.

Having served in both the UN and the EU, advancing smart multilateralism and the EU-UN partnership is a *leitmotif* of my work as Europe's External Relations Commissioner. We must build on the accomplishments of the UN Reform Summit in September 2005, such as the creation of the Human Rights Council and the Peace-Building Commission, and continue honing the tools of global governance. All countries stand to gain from these reforms and from a well-managed UN.

This also means that the EU must play an even more proactive role in the global arena. We must live up to our increasing international responsibility and become more effective, coherent and visible in our external relations, not least in the UN context. In a complex world, 'fortress Europe' is not the answer.

Effective multilateralism is not about building a 'world government'. It is about making sure we have the instruments to manage globalisation. This timely book provides food for thought on how to achieve that, for both academics and practitioners of foreign policy.

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