

MULTILATERALISM, REGIONALISM
AND BILATERALISM IN TRADE
AND INVESTMENT

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United Nations University Series on Regionalism
Editor, Philippe De Lombaerde



United Nations
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CRIS

Comparative Regional Integration Studies



Multilateralism, Regionalism and Bilateralism in Trade and Investment

2006 World Report on Regional Integration

Philippe De Lombaerde (editor)

In Collaboration with:

UNCTAD, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, UNECE, UNU-WIDER



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*The EU Framework VI GARNET Network of Excellence was created to bundle the capacity of more than 40 universities in order to jointly undertake innovative research on globalisation, regionalisation and the role of the EU, and regions in general, in world governance. In this context, GARNET actively supported the launching of this new **World Report on Regional Integration**. The series is likely to establish itself as an obligatory reference for policy-makers and academics involved in thinking and moulding the global governance architecture of the future. It fills a gap in the existing supply of world reports.*

Professor Richard Higgott, Director of the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation at the University of Warwick, and Senior Scientist and Director of the GARNET Network of Excellence

*The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group) welcomes the **World Report on Regional Integration**, which provides a holistic and pragmatic perspective on the role of regions in world governance and international affairs. The most significant and unique value of this volume is that it presents an enhanced understanding of the processes of regional integration in political, economic, social and cultural spheres. It is an invaluable reference for the ACP Group in its endeavour to further enhance solidarity and unity amongst its member states, whilst addressing the challenges of poverty eradication, sustainable development and globalization.*

Sir John R. Kaputin, KBE, CMG, Secretary-General of the ACP Group

*Global governance is a concern of not only global organisations but also of all individual states and of regional co-operation agreements among sovereign states. In 2001, the United Nations University has launched UNU-CRIS, a research and training programme on comparative regional integration to study the role of regional integration in global governance. The present first volume of the **World Report on Regional Integration** is a timely product of the research undertaken at UNU-CRIS. This new series of World Reports will certainly contribute to the discussion on the interaction between regional and global governance. And by bringing together insights from different parts of the UN system, in particular the five UN regional economic commissions and UNCTAD, this report will also contribute to a better understanding of the role of regions in the UN.*

Hans van Ginkel, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Rector of UNU

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1 *The World Report on Regional Integration* brings together a well-balanced mix of
2 economic analysis, facts and political perspectives on the topic of regional integra-
3 tion. The most valuable and unique contribution of this volume is the enhanced clarity
4 it brings to the complex picture of trade and investment integration, the entanglement
5 of which points to the need for more effective regional governance as a building block
6 of multilateral governance in this area. As the world's most dynamic trading region,
7 Asia and the Pacific is a key player in this process, and the UNESCAP secretariat, in
8 its service to the region, will continue to accord high priority to this policy objective.
9
10 Kim Hak-Su, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive
11 Secretary of UNESCAP

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Bruges

