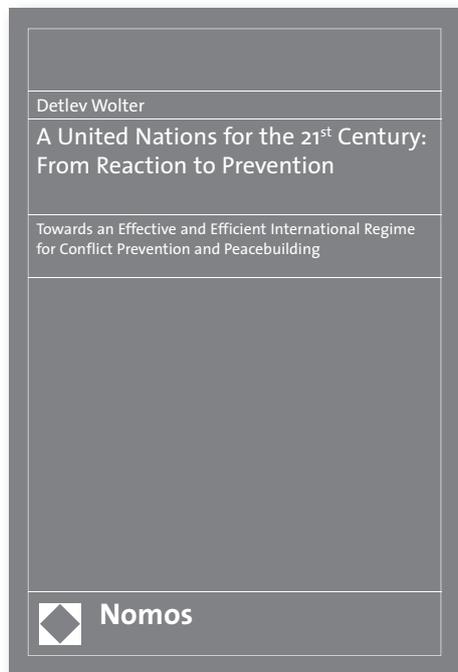


The Future of the UN



The author analyzes the achievements of the UN World Summit of September 2005 in the field of conflict prevention, human security and the advancement of the security-development nexus. The Summit Outcome Document contains important general endorsements of the objective to strengthen conflict prevention capacities at the UN and fully supports the mission of the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. In addition, it commits all Member States for the first time to develop a notion of “human security” that recognizes that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want. It embraces the concept of a “responsibility to protect” against genocide, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

The newly established Peacebuilding Commission can play an important overall preventive role, in particular by ensuring that post-conflict countries do not relapse into armed conflict. The recent Comprehensive Progress Report on Conflict Prevention by the UN Secretary-General represents an important step towards implementing and operationalizing the shift from reaction to prevention.

The author supports the call for a special summit meeting in 2010 on conflict prevention and human security with the objective to adopt a Global Action Plan. The Action Plan on Conflict Prevention and Human Security should specify concrete agreements for allocating the resources necessary to bring peace planning, conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategies to fruition.

**A United Nations for the 21st Century:
From Reaction to Prevention**

**Towards an Effective and Efficient
International Regime for Conflict Prevention
and Peacebuilding**

Dr. Detlev Wolter

Preface by Dr. David Hamburg, Co-Chair of
the Carnegie Commission on the Prevention
of Deadly Conflict.

Foreword by Prof. Amitai Etzioni, George
Washington University.

2007, 473 pp., paperback, 69,- €,

ISBN 978-3-8329-2344-0

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