Global partnerships have transformed international institutions by creating platforms for direct collaboration with nongovernmental organizations, foundations, companies, and local actors. They introduce a model of governance that is decentralized, networked, and voluntary and which melds public purpose with private practice. How can we account for such substantial institutional change in a system made by states and for states? *Governance Entrepreneurs* examines the rise and outcomes of global partnerships across multiple policy domains: human rights, health, environment, sustainable development, and children. It argues that international organizations have played a central role as entrepreneurs of such governance innovation in coalition with proactive states and non-state actors, yet this entrepreneurship is risky, and success is not assured. This is the first study to leverage comprehensive quantitative and qualitative analysis that illuminates the variable politics and outcomes of public–private partnerships across multilateral institutions, including the UN Secretariat, the World Bank, UNEP, the WHO, and UNICEF.

**Liliana B. Andonova** is Professor of International Relations and Political Science and Academic Co-Director of the Center for International Environmental Studies at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. She is the author of *Transnational Politics of the Environment* (2003), co-author of *Transnational Climate Change Governance* (2014), and co-editor of a special issue on the Comparative Politics of Transnational Climate Governance of the *International Interactions* journal (2017).
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International Organizations and the Rise of Global Public–Private Partnerships

LILIANA B. ANDONOVA
Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Geneva
Contents

List of Figures ........................................ vi
List of Tables ......................................... viii
Acknowledgments ...................................... ix
1 Introduction – Global Partnerships .......... 1
2 Theory of Dynamic Institutional Change ..... 33
3 The UN Secretariat: Crafting Normative Space for Partnerships .... 67
4 UNEP and the World Bank: Extending Sustainability via Partnerships ........ 108
5 Partnerships for Children and Health ...... 145
6 Conclusion: Institutional Diversity and Global Partnerships .......... 193
Annex: Constructing the Global Partnerships Database .......... 212
Bibliography ........................................... 223
Index ...................................................... 265
Figures

1.1 Rise of global public–private partnerships in the multilateral system  
page 15
1.2 Diversity of global partnerships 17
2.1 Dynamic model of delegation to IOs 40
3.1 Public awareness of UN reform and budget concerns 72
3.2 Trends in ODA and FDI flows, 1970–2000 73
3.3 Density of INGOs and civil society governance 74
3.4 Rise of business self-regulation and Corporate Responsibility (CR) reporting 74
3.5 Expansion of non-state funding partners of UNFIP 82
3.6 UNFIP projects and financing across issue areas and UN agencies 83
3.7 Expansion of local networks of the Global Compact 96
3.8 Expansion of Global Compact Membership 97
4.1 Rise of UNEP and World Bank global partnerships over time 114
4.2 Initiating actors of UNEP partnerships by type of authority 116
4.3 Initiating actors of World Bank partnerships 128
4.4 Issue Focus of UNEP and World Bank environmental partnerships 137
4.5 Governance instruments of UNEP and World Bank environmental partnerships 139
4.6 Financial partners of UNEP and World Bank environmental partnerships 142
5.1 Rise of UNICEF and WHO global partnerships 155
5.2 Initiating actors of UNICEF global program partnerships 156
5.3 Initiating actors of WHO global partnerships 171
5.4 Issue focus of WHO and UNICEF joint global partnerships 183
List of Figures

5.5 Issue focus of UNICEF and WHO partnerships that are not coordinated across the two organizations 183
5.6 Governance instruments of joint UNICEF and WHO global partnerships 186
5.7 Financial partners in WHO and UNICEF joint global partnerships 189
Tables

1.1 Global partnerships as organizational innovation in the multilateral system page 8
6.1 Diversity of IOs and partnership approaches 196
A1 Global partnerships data 215
A2 Entrepreneurship of global partnerships 217
A3 Participation in global partnerships 218
A4 Financial support for global partnerships 219
A5 Issue focus of global partnerships 220
A6 Governance activities of global partnerships 221
Acknowledgments

How do institutions change in response to complex challenges to human security and planetary sustainability? The exploration of large and enduring questions often starts from a focal image or an event that captures imagination. This book began with the observation of important organizational transformation – the rise of global public–private partnerships to tackle pressing problems of health, human rights, environment, and development more broadly. Global partnerships straddle traditional divisions between the public and the private spheres and between international cooperation, domestic politics, and local concerns. These arrangements are incredibly diverse in terms of structure, objectives, and participation. How can we account for such layering of different forms of governance? What are the roles of private actors and public institutions? How do global partnerships govern? This book takes on the challenge to conceptualize institutional transformation and examine in broad strokes partnership governance across the international system. The focal idea that emerged is that of entrepreneurship – a concerted effort by coalitions of actors that straddles scales and sources of authority to experiment with new mechanisms of governance and justify their institutionalization. International organizations have played a central role in these processes both as entrepreneurs and enablers of the cycle of change. The analysis and documentation of the rise of global partnerships relied on multi-method research across issue domains of international governance. Fortunately, I found tremendous support in this endeavor for which I will be always grateful. The scale of the research and analysis would not have been possible without the generous support of academic funding, the insights of many interviews, and the feedback and deliberation with colleagues, friends, and family. The research was supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF grant numbers 2054 and 2067), including the data collection and a large part of the qualitative research that informs this book.
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