

# Contents

Foreword XI

Preface XII

Introduction 1

- 1 **Philosophy, Perspectives and Strategy 11**
  - Introduction 11
  - 1 The United Nations Philosophy of Human Rights 13
  - 2 The Perspectives of the President of the Human Rights Council, the UN Secretary-General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 24
  - 3 A UN Human Rights Policy for an Unpredictable Era 40
  - Conclusion 42
- 2 **The UN Human Rights System: A Sunflower 43**
  - Introduction 43
  - 1 The Sunflower System 43
  - 2 Norms 47
  - 3 Machinery 51
  - Conclusion 67
- 3 **The Plight of the Poorest 69**
  - Introduction 69
  - 1 Human Rights and Poverty Reduction 70
  - 2 Extreme Poverty 71
  - 3 Preventable Poverty 74
  - 4 Alleviating the Plight of the Poorest 75
  - 5 The UN Millennium Development and Sustainable Development Goals 76
  - 6 Legal Empowerment of the Poor 79
  - 7 Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 82
  - 8 Public Interest Litigation 84
  - 9 The Right to Development 86
  - 10 Modernizing the Implementation Mechanism of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to Deal with the Plight of the Poorest 88
  - Conclusion 89

- 4 The World of the Future: The Human Rights Component of a Global Watch over Human Security 90**  
Introduction 90
- 1 The Current Role of the Office of the High Commissioner 90
  - 2 Human Rights in the World of the Future 95
  - 3 A Global Watch over Human Security 99
  - 4 Threats and Challenges 101
  - 5 The Role of OHCHR in Helping Identify the Human Rights Dimensions of Global Threats 112
  - 6 Developing the Research and Policy function of OHCHR to put it in the Service of Prevention 114
- Conclusion 122
- 5 Preventing Gross Violations of Human Rights: A UN World Report on National Protection and Prevention Systems 123**  
Introduction 123
- 1 The Importance of Adequate and Effective National Human Rights Institutions 123
  - 2 General Comment No. 10 of the CESCR: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in the Protection of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 125
  - 3 The Paris Principles Relating to the Status of National Institutions 127
  - 4 A World Report on National Human Rights Institutions 131
- Conclusion 132
- 6 A Standing Security Council Item on Human Rights and International Peace and Security 134**  
Introduction 134
- 1 The Practice of the Security Council in Dealing with Human Rights Issues 135
  - 2 The First Thematic Human Rights Discussion in the Security Council 149
  - 3 Threats to International Peace and Security 153
  - 4 A Standing Item on Human Rights and International Peace and Security 158
- Conclusion 160