

## INTRODUCTION TO STRENGTHENING MULTILATERALISM

The articles cited in this section examine possible changes to the expanding multilateral system of global governance that would almost certainly result in diminished levels of national sovereignty. Some analysts express a preference for this over the state-centric approach mainly because they believe that little can be done to improve state-centric power. According to this view, while increased multilateralism carries no guarantee of success, it seems to have a greater probability of bringing about a more effective approach to global governance.

Of special interest is an analysis of experiences with the European Union for which sovereignty of the member states has clearly diminished. As a result, much of the stability that is, or was, a characteristic of the state-centric approach has been given up in exchange for a larger market, a larger polity with which to influence global goals and a recognised improvement in economic efficiency. The current crisis of the Euro area is in many ways indicative of the loss of stability and it is not yet certain how costly such a loss will become.

Other papers included in this section examine the extent to which administrative rules can successfully replace the discipline of legislative and judicial oversight of administrators. Of interest also is the extent to which emerging countries are in the process of adapting to multilateral institutions and, in some cases, successfully influencing those institutions. A recent line of thought has been directed to the possibility that many associations of nation-states, such as the G7 and G20 will ultimately break down as a result of the lack of discipline needed to comply with the majority views, thus leaving a group of none, or, as it is sometimes codified, "G-Zero". This can be treated as a decentralised form of global governance in which specialised NGOs formulate recommendations that are considered unilaterally, bilaterally and ultimately multilaterally by nation-states and perhaps ultimately producing a global consensus.