NGOs in International Law
Efficiency in Flexibility?

The increasing role that NGOs play at different levels of legal relevance – from treaty-making to rule implementation, and from support to judges to aid delivery – calls for reconsideration of the international legal status of those organizations. This book shows that the degree of flexibility currently enjoyed by NGOs in fields as varied as human rights, the environment and the European Union development cooperation policy constitutes the best arena for all actors involved, with the consequences that the instances where more strict regulation of NGOs’ participation is desirable are very limited.

“...The essays are persuasive and well-written and, all in all, the book makes an indelible contribution to the legal discourse surrounding this subject. Although the essays are presented with sufficient detail and structure for legal specialists, it would be extremely useful for lobbying practitioners. It is equally essential reading for larger NGOs who wish to improve existing partnership efforts as well as smaller NGOs in developing countries who would like to know more about the policy considerations underpinning current limitations to the NGO’s role.”
– Akima Paul, Vienna Online Journal on International Constitutional Law

“The increasing importance of NGOs has forced international institutions to pay attention to issues of participation and transparency. This excellent book provides comprehensive and insightful analyses of how international bodies accommodate NGOs and their concerns. It forthrightly addresses the uncertain legal status of NGOs in international law.”
– Edith Brown Weiss, Georgetown University Law Center, US

“No one can deny the significance that NGOs have at the international level, or the dynamism some of them have shown in promoting change, whether in the context of the International Criminal Court or the environment, etc. This is a lively and well-informed account of the wide range of NGOs at the international level, their continuing search for status and (what is more important) access, and also of the abuses sometimes involved, e.g. with “servile NGOs” in the human rights field. This collection provides an important source of information about an important source of influence on our lives.”
– James Crawford, Cambridge University, UK

“A timely and useful book that highlights the multi-faceted role of NGOs on the international scene and the rules and practices which have been designed to this end”
– Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, University of Geneva, Switzerland

“This book offers a refreshing and well-informed approach to the contentious issues of the role, legal status and consequences of NGOs in international law. The authors provide insightful and high quality analyses of the theories, applications and realities of NGO participation in a wide range of international activity.”
– Robert McCorquodale, University of Nottingham, UK

“This is a timely and important contribution. It assists in our understanding of developments that have theoretical and practical implications for the changing international legal order.”
– Philippe Sands, University College London, UK