Acknowledgements

Many people have contributed to the creation of this book and accompanied me during my work on it. I owe particular gratitude to my supervisor Thomas Cottier, whose advice and encouragement was and still is invaluable. His enthusiasm for constitutional and international economic law and his incredible intuition for bridges which still need to be built, encouraged me to dive into this new branch of law. I would also like to express my thanks to my second supervisor Krista Nadakavukaren for her timely evaluation of the thesis.

Moreover, I would like to thank Katja Gehne for her friendship, the many engaging discussions and her readiness to share her innovative approach, which I was then able to build upon. I am grateful to the many scholars and stakeholders with whom I had key exchanges on elements of the book, including Franziska Humbert, Michael Burkard, Eva Maria Belser, Joëlle de Sépibus, Brigitte Schnegg, Jörg Paul Müller, Annemarie Sancar, Lilian Fankhauser, Franz Perrez, Christine Kaufmann, Andrea Ries, Werner Thut, Andreas Klaey, Marcus Giger, Simone Heri, Mirina Grosz, Stephan Rist, Pete Messerli, Susette Biber-Klemm, Michelangelo Temmermann, Fitzgerald Temmermann, Judith Wehrli, Dannie Jost, and Duscha Padrutt. I owe a debt of gratitude to academic institutions such as the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) which paved the way for thinking of sustainable development as a new branch of law; to critical thinkers, such as Caroline Dommen, Kerstin Mechlem or Sophia Murphy, whose work helped me to find entry points; and to stakeholders who are deeply engaged in the debate, such as Thomas Braunschweig and Thomas Gröbly. I am particularly thankful to Olivier De Schutter for work which is of immense value since it established urgently needed linkages between the international economic regime and the human rights regime; when I started work on the book, I felt rather lonely with the topic, but now, the debate has started to spread its wings. In this regard, I am grateful for the support of the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) in spreading the approach, and to the World Trade Institute (WTI) for facilitating this effort.

I am indebted to Susan Plattner for very constructively reviewing my manuscript, and to Gian Luca Bonanomi who helped me in the editing
process. I am grateful for the help of Rosemarie Coeppicus, Susan Kaplan, Melanie Mettler and Wulfhard Stahl of the Institute of European and International Economic Law of the University of Bern. Finally, I would like to thank the Swiss National Fund and the Karlaganis family for their kind support, as well as the editorial team for their friendliness.

I would like to express my warmest gratitude to my friends and wider family, with whom I have enjoyed enjoyable moments of recreation during the time of writing, despite limited time. And I would like to acknowledge the invaluable support in care work provided by my parents Lisbeth and Oswald and my parents-in-law Susanne and Marc.

My warmest thanks are due to my beloved children Silvan and Luz for teaching me how to see the future world with different eyes. And – most importantly – I dearly thank Klaus, without whose love and companionship I would never have written this book.

Elisabeth Bürgi Bonanomi
Bern, November 2014