

Prof. Ramesh Thakur

Prof. Dr. Ramesh Thakur is the Senior Vice Rector of the United Nations University and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Born in India, he has held full-time academic appointments in Fiji, New Zealand and Australia and visiting appointments elsewhere. He was Professor of International Relations and Director of Asian Studies at the University of Otago in New Zealand and Professor and Head of the Peace Research Centre at the Australian National University in Canberra before joining UNU in 1998. He was a Commissioner on the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty and one of the principal authors of its report *The Responsibility to Protect*, and Senior Advisor on Reforms and Principal Writer of the UN Secretary-General's second reform report. Educated in India and Canada, he has served on advisory bodies on peace and disarmament to the governments of Australia and New Zealand and currently serves on the advisory boards of several research institutions in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. He is the author/editor of some twenty books, the most recent being *From Sovereign Impunity to International Accountability: The Search for Justice in a World of States* (2004), *Making States Work: State Failure and the Crisis of Governance* (2005), and *International Commissions and the Power of Ideas* (2005). His new book, *The United Nations, Peace and Security: From Collective Security to the Responsibility to Protect*, will be published by Cambridge University Press in Spring 2006. He also writes regularly for the national and international quality press, including the *Australian Financial Review*, the *Daily Yomiuri*, *die tageszeitung*, the *Globe and Mail*, the *International Herald Tribune* and the *Japan Times*.