

OPPORTUNITY #35

WHAT IF ALL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT IS INTERNATIONAL?

HUMANITY COURT

Dispute settlement in a
borderless and digital world

WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

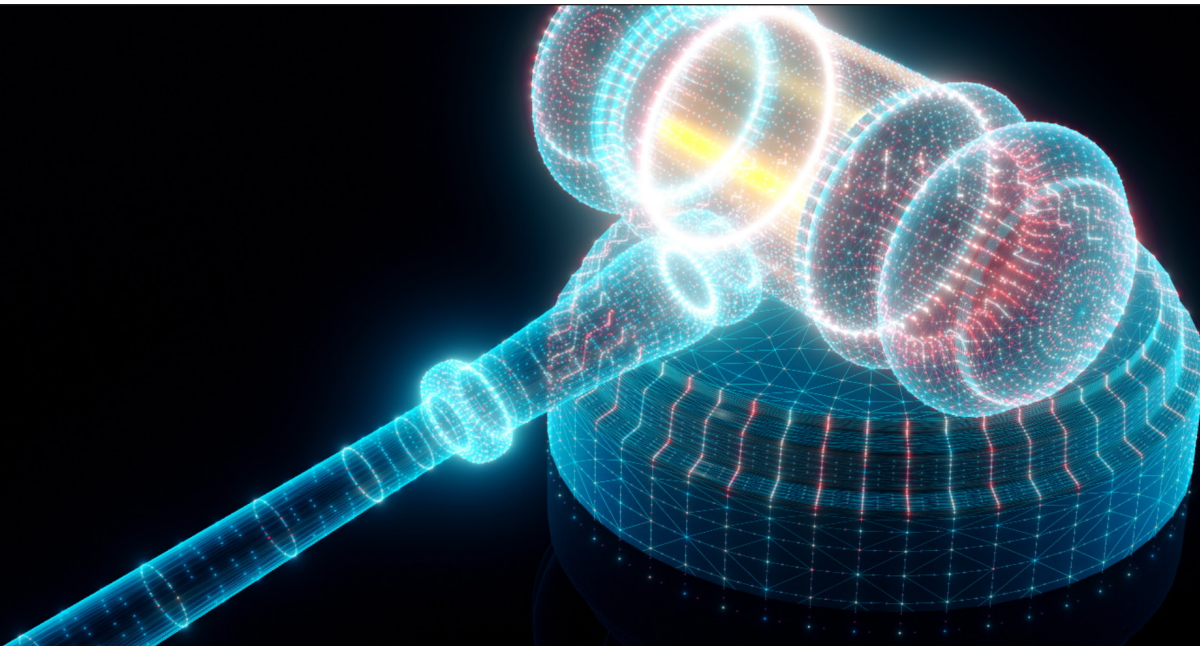
The sum of imports and exports of goods and services across borders accounted for 53% of global GDP in 2020, compared to 25% in 1970.³⁵⁹

The volume of cross-border trade, 'gig economy', flexible jobs and e-commerce are all set to skyrocket in the coming years, while flows of capital in and out of countries is also increasing. In the Middle East, two of the world's three largest remittance corridors, UAE and Saudi Arabia, handled \$78 billion in payments in 2020, equating to 7% of GDP of the two nations combined.³⁶⁰

The number of people living outside their country of origin reached 281 million in 2020,³⁶¹ roughly equal to the population of Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country. Emerging from the pandemic, hybrid models of remote work are likely to continue for the highly educated, well-paid minority of the workforce or in advanced economies where up to one quarter of their populations will be able to work remotely three to five days a week depending on their occupation.³⁶²

Beyond trade and migration, many aspects of our lives involve transnational factors. The COVID-19 pandemic has itself been termed **'the borderless virus'**.³⁶³

One impact of living in an increasingly borderless world is the rise of transnational disputes and litigation. This is reflected in the volume of record requests being received by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) for its arbitration and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services.³⁶⁴



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THE OPPORTUNITY TOMORROW

In a world interconnected by trade, migration and digital technologies, an integrated and international legal system can enable rapid dispute settlement.

As personal and professional activities are migrated to the digital world there may be little reason to take judicial disputes to a bricks-and-mortar court in any specific country.

Experts believe that, by using connectivity and advanced artificial intelligence, evidence and arguments can be captured in real time so that disputes can be settled or, where applicable, judgements can be automated. Going beyond international settlement of cases under current laws, supranational legal institutions could also have the powers necessary to enact and enforce new laws.

BENEFITS

International dispute resolution driven by AI and other technologies can save time and money in resolving cases. Common international laws in a range of domains reduce the cost of cross-border trade for companies big and small, as well as simplifying formalities for individuals who live, work and consume in multiple jurisdictions real and virtual – and, someday, in outer space.

RISKS

The risk to the system is minimal if critical public and corporate stakeholders agree to collaborate and respect it.