

HARVARD INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL
Volume 67 | Number 1 | Winter 2026

Foreword by the Editors-in-Chief

Dear Reader,

It is our privilege to introduce Volume 67, Issue Number 1, of the *Harvard International Law Journal*.

This Issue goes to print at a moment of profound global transition, shaped by shifting geopolitical dynamics, international crimes and violations, and unprecedented challenges to long-standing norms. As states and institutions navigate these pressures, international law remains essential to resolve conflict and address the world's most complex problems. We hope that you find this Issue informative, thought-provoking, and ultimately reaffirming of the enduring relevance and importance of international law.

The Journal remains dedicated to advancing international legal study and showcasing a range of voices and topics through its contributors. The pieces in this Issue consider how international legal frameworks confront evolving global risks and shape accountability, rights, and governance. Professors Huneeus and Rueda-Saiz explore how the laws of armed conflict have addressed environmental destruction, highlighting an emerging “ecocultural” approach that protects the survival, identity, and dignity of communities inseparably tied to the land. Professor Larkin illustrates how multinational businesses use existing investment treaty regimes to transform business plans into international rights that supersede national laws and domestic priorities, calling for new regimes that account for the interests of all involved. Clinical Instructor Levine-Spound contends that Rwanda’s support for the M23 rebellion in eastern DRC constitutes an act of aggression under international law and outlines avenues for accountability. Professor Menashe analyzes how the International Labour Organization’s often-criticized standard-setting and supervisory system can, in fact, broaden the enforcement capacity of international labor law and guide external actors to improve global labor-rights compliance. Finally, Student Note author João Vitor Gomes Martins examines how the OECD/G20’s Pillar Two introduces new deal-level risks and accounting asymmetries that will reshape how cross-border mergers and acquisitions are structured and governed. We look forward to the ongoing inquiry that will emerge from their publication.

None of this would have been possible without the determination and passion of the Harvard Law students who make up our Editorial Team. Their tireless efforts to advance international legal scholarship deserve the highest thanks. Thank you, in particular, to our Submissions team for selecting these articles carefully, and to the Executive Print Team for their meticulous editorial work. Finally, we express sincere gratitude to our authors for their trust in our process and their commitment to thoughtful, scholarly dialogue.

Kind Regards,

Emily Kohn & Felipe Lobo Koerich
Editors-in-Chief