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# CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

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When, in 1976, a group of Fletcher classmates got together to establish *The Fletcher Forum*, we weren't even sure we'd be able to successfully produce a second issue, let alone contemplate a second anniversary. So it is with a sense of wonder, as well as satisfaction, that I embrace this opportunity to celebrate *The Forum's* thirtieth year of continuing publication.

Thirty years ago, my friends and I pushed to create *The Forum* principally as an outlet for student research and writing. Indeed, the first couple of issues featured a number of recycled term papers (improved, no doubt, by the collective efforts of our caffeine-fueled editorial board). Our logic was simple: Fletcher had such an astonishing range of talent at its disposal, with students from around the globe who had earned their spurs in a diverse array of fields, that we felt their work deserved to be showcased more enduringly for a broader audience. I mean no disrespect to my friends who featured in those first issues when I say that our successors over the years have taken our idea and improved vastly upon it. *The Forum* is now an established journal of international affairs, attracting contributors of great distinction and attaining (and maintaining) the exacting standards the world has come to expect from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. An appearance in its pages carries with it a level of prestige our founding group could only have fantasized about thirty years ago.

*The Fletcher Forum* remains a testament to what can be accomplished by student initiative and energy, drawing on a global talent pool and applying rigorous intellectual standards, under the hospitable roof of one of the world's great institutions of international learning. Here's to the next thirty years—and beyond.

**SHASHI THAROOR  
FIRST CHAIRMAN OF *THE FLETCHER FORUM*  
EDITORIAL BOARD, 1976**

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