REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.:   IJAR-56231

Title: International Law and Artificial Intelligence: A Structural Readiness Assessment

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision…………

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity	✓			
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Faheem Abdul Muneeb

Reviewer's Comment

This manuscript offers a sophisticated and timely structural evaluation of international law's capacity to govern artificial intelligence. Rather than focusing narrowly on specific AI applications, the article advances a systemic inquiry into whether public international law—considered as a constellation of norms, institutions, and processes—is structurally prepared for AI as a cross-cutting technological phenomenon. The proposed three-part framework of normative coverage, institutional capacity, and adaptive flexibility provides a coherent analytical lens that guides the study consistently from introduction to conclusion.

The topic is highly relevant in light of accelerating AI deployment in security, human rights, and economic domains. The manuscript contributes meaningfully to contemporary debates by moving beyond siloed doctrinal discussions and situating AI governance within broader concerns of regime complexity, fragmentation, legitimacy, and accountability.

Scientific Contribution and Analytical Strength

The principal strength of the article lies in its conceptual clarity and structural synthesis. The distinction between normative richness and institutional thinness is particularly compelling. The analysis

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convincingly demonstrates that core international norms—prohibition of force, IHL principles, human rights protections, and trade obligations—are largely technology-neutral and formally applicable to AI-mediated conduct. At the same time, the manuscript carefully identifies stress points arising from algorithmic opacity, distributed causation, private-sector dominance, and rapid technological evolution.

The case studies on autonomous weapons, AI-enabled surveillance, and cross-border economic regulation are well chosen and analytically integrated. They effectively operationalise the structural readiness framework and demonstrate how normative sufficiency does not automatically translate into institutional effectiveness. The discussion of fragmentation and regime complexes adds theoretical depth and situates the analysis within broader scholarship on international governance.

Methodology and Analytical Approach

The qualitative doctrinal and structural methodology is appropriate for the article's objectives. The integration of primary legal sources (UN Charter, IHL, human-rights instruments, WTO framework), institutional practice, and soft-law developments (OECD, UNESCO, Council of Europe) reflects thorough engagement with relevant materials. The research questions are clearly articulated and consistently answered through the structural framework.

While the methodology is sound, the article is relatively long and occasionally reiterates points about fragmentation and institutional limitations across sections. Moderate condensation—particularly in the literature review and theoretical background—would enhance precision without diminishing analytical depth. These are refinements rather than substantive concerns.

Structure, Style, and Presentation

The manuscript is well organized, progressing logically from conceptual framing and methodology to analysis and case studies. The structural readiness framework provides internal coherence and prevents the study from devolving into a purely descriptive survey of AI initiatives.

The writing is generally clear and academically rigorous. Minor stylistic tightening could reduce repetition in sections discussing regime complexity and soft law. Additionally, some references to emerging instruments (e.g., forthcoming resolutions) could be slightly clarified for citation precision. These issues are editorial in nature.

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The title accurately captures the scope and conceptual ambition of the article and does not require modification.

Final Recommendation

This manuscript makes a substantial and theoretically grounded contribution to the study of AI and international law. By advancing a structural readiness framework and applying it across security, human rights, and economic domains, it fills an important gap in the literature and offers a coherent lens for future scholarship and policy discussion.

With **minor revisions** focused on modest condensation and minor stylistic refinement, the manuscript is suitable for publication.

Decision: Accepted with minor revisions.