

**THIRD MEETING OF THE
STANDING INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF COMMERCIAL COURTS**

OPENING ADDRESS

11 and 12 March 2021

The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon
Supreme Court of Singapore

Lord Thomas,
Chief Justice, Justices, Judges, and friends from all over the world,

1. Welcome to the 3rd meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts.

2. I am delighted and grateful in equal measure to welcome you today. Delighted, because we are able to come together to build on relationships established when we last gathered as a group almost 3 years ago in New York; and grateful, because we can do so despite the many challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. I recall our early discussions about the focus of the third meeting of this Forum. We concluded then that we should study a range of aspects relating to the emerging partnership between justice and technology.

4. That has turned out to be prescient. COVID-19 has changed the world as we knew it, and among its many effects has been the dramatic acceleration of that partnership. The pandemic has compelled us to develop new ways of

working in order to accommodate the environment we find ourselves in today. The focus on technology was undoubtedly topical, but it has also been enabling. And so, where I had hoped to welcome you personally to Singapore last year, we gather today using technology to bridge distances and overcome obstacles. This Forum has provided, and continues to provide, an extremely valuable platform for all of us to share ideas, experiences and innovations and I am sure we will learn much from our discussions over the next day.

5. Let me also express my deep and heartfelt gratitude to Lord Thomas and the Steering Group for guiding this Forum, to the Forum's Secretariat led by Sir Robin Knowles and Grace Karass, and to my own outstanding team led by my Divisional Registrar of the Singapore International Commercial Court Phang Hsiao Chung and Una Khng and supported by our Office of Public Affairs, for the superb work they have all done to make this meeting possible.

6. I wish you all an excellent time and I hope we will meet your every expectation!