

Concept note:

‘Urban Law Day 2017’

Date: 14 July 2017

Title: Implementing the Urban Law Agenda

The Urban Law Day

The Urban Law Day is a specialised forum aiming to bring together a multidisciplinary circle of academics and practitioners interested in urban legislation, including planners, architects, policy makers, economists, urbanises, and lawyers.

The purpose of the Urban Law Day is to facilitate discussion, the exchange of views, networking, and the presentation of new research findings or emerging issues. The fourth Urban Law Day will take place on 14 July 2017 at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (University of London) and will address specific legal issues linked to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Background

The New Urban Agenda was adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on the 20th October 2016. The New Urban Agenda is a non-binding roadmap that sets policy objectives for environmental friendly which are engines of prosperity and centres of cultural and social well-being.

Major commitments in the New Urban Agenda include the provision of basic services for all citizens in an equal and non-discriminatory way; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; measures for cleaner cities; strengthened resilience and reduced risk and impact of disasters; actions to address climate change and reduced greenhouse gas emissions; respect for the rights of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons; improved connectivity and support for innovative and green initiatives; and safe, accessible and green public spaces.

National governments and local authorities are the main actors burdened with the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Agenda itself acknowledges that effective implementation requires an enabling environment and a wide range of means of implementation, including access to science, technology, and innovation and enhanced knowledge-sharing, capacity development and financial resources, international cooperation and partnerships. Effective implementation also requires urban rules and regulations and governance frameworks that actively promote these objectives. Legal and institutional frameworks play a central role to the extent that they are the means for implementing

policies and are central to delivering the rights and protection that policy documents promise to individuals and groups. However, often the link between policy objectives and legislation, especially in highly complex areas like urban legislation and governance is not sufficiently clear.



Purpose and expected outcome of the Urban Law Day

The overall objective of the Urban Law Day is to highlight the links between policy objectives and commitments in the New Urban Agenda and the enabling legislative and governance frameworks required for their implementation.

The Urban Law Day will explore specific commitments related to human rights and governance and ways in which these can be realised.

Participants will be asked to share country experiences, challenges and ideas and to actively participate in discussion.

Organisers

	<p>The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies is part of the School of Advanced Study of the University of London with the mandate to promote research facilitation, advance innovation, and bridge research between academy and the professions. The Institute produces its own high impact research, and contributes to the generation and development of high impact research by others.</p> <p>The Institute brings together academic researchers, students, judges and legal practitioners from diverse backgrounds, enabling important opportunities for cross-fertilisation and has leadership involvement in strong networks both discipline-based and spanning geographical and jurisdictional differences.</p> <p>Through its research projects and programmes the IALS leads and shapes research agendas, facilitates the identification of new research horizons and facilitates debate by providing opportunities and resources for cutting-edge research.</p>
	<p>The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations by its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and transformed into a Programme by its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001. It has its Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. UN-Habitat is the coordinating agency within the United Nations System for human settlement activities, the focal point for the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as well as the task manager of the human settlements chapter of Agenda 21, and, in collaboration with governments is responsible for promoting and consolidating collaboration with all partners, including local authorities and private and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as well as supporting the national and local governments in monitoring the 2030 Agenda - Sustainable Development Goal 11, the “Urban SDG” - to make human settlements inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable.</p>

Programme

09:30-09:50

Registration

09:50-10:00

Introduction & Welcome address from the IALS and UN-Habitat

Roundtable

Implementing commitments of the New Urban Agenda related to equity, inclusion, human rights, poverty & governance

10:00- 10:30

An overview of commitments in the New Urban Agenda related to human rights and governance, UN –Habitat

10:30 – 11:00

Non-discrimination and gender – how can they make a difference?

Urbanization / Land and Human Rights, Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

11:30-12:00

Human Rights commitments– what do they mean, how are they relevant for urban legislation and how can they be addressed? – IALS

12:00-13:00

Regional and Country experiences from Angola, Mozambique and Lebanon

13:00-14:00

Q & A – Discussion

14:00-15:00

Lunch