



FORDHAM
URBAN LAW DAY
OCTOBER 2025

AI and URBAN LAW:
BRIDGING THE ADEQUATE HOUSING GAP

Thursday, 30th October 2025 (eve of World Cities Day)

Theme for World Cities Day: **People-Centered Smart Cities**

9.00 am – 10:00 am (Eastern U.S. time);
16:00 pm – 17:00 pm (Nairobi time)

Organizers



Type

Conference /Symposium

Venue

Online via [MS Teams](#)



To celebrate World Cities Day (WCD), please join UN-Habitat and the Fordham University, Urban Law Center (US) for an Urban Law Day Roundtable Discussion on the eve of WCD, Thursday, October 30, 2025. In line with this year’s WCD theme: **People-Centered Smart Cities**, a panel of urban legal scholars from around the world, will discuss the role played by urban legislation in promoting artificial intelligence to address the housing crisis.

PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTCOME

Adequate housing is a cornerstone to sustainable development, yet today there is a growing global housing crisis, with nearly 3 billion people experiencing some form of housing inadequacy. More than 1 billion people live in informal settlements and slums. Climate disasters and ongoing conflicts are worsening the crisis, creating further vulnerabilities and challenges. Urgent action is needed – particularly in the housing and construction sector.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as a key tool to significantly accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ranging from eradicating poverty to combating climate change for a more sustainable future for all. At the local level, the New Urban Agenda urges cities to adopt a smart-city approach that makes use of opportunities from digitalization, clean energy and technologies, as well as innovative transport technologies, thus providing options for inhabitants to make more environmentally friendly choices, boost sustainable economic growth and enable public administration to improve their service delivery.

The housing sector should leverage AI for improved data-driven decision-making as an opportunity to improve housing supply, reduce costs, and speed up housing production. For instance, AI could help map out land usage and regulatory impacts more effectively, giving cities a clearer understanding of how they can make housing more affordable while still preparing for future challenges. This is no small feat as land and housing regulations are notoriously complex, but AI could make it easier to visualize the bigger picture and support quick, targeted and strategic action.

As with any tool, AI is not without its drawbacks, and it can present significant risks, including potential bias and discrimination, privacy violations, and human rights concerns such as the misuse of surveillance systems. For the housing sector, this could weaken significant strides in achieving the right to adequate housing for all. Thus, governments at all levels have a critical role to play as stewards of this transformative technology, ensuring that AI systems are transparent, accountable, and aligned with the principles of effective governance.

This session will seek to explore the above concepts and is aimed at promoting learning, knowledge sharing and exchange of information and experiences which will better inform the promotion of “responsible AI” in urban legal frameworks to advance adequate housing for all.

PARTNER PROFILES



Fordham University

Established in 2012, the Urban Law Center is committed to understanding and affecting the legal system’s place in contemporary urban life. The Center, based at Fordham Law School’s Lincoln Center campus in the heart of New York City, seeks to elevate and advance urban law as a unified field and to serve as a premier resource for urban law scholars, practitioners, advocates, students, policymakers, and community members.



UN-Habitat is the coordinating agency within the United Nations System for human settlement activities and, in collaboration with governments, is responsible for promoting and consolidating collaboration with all partners, including local authorities, private and non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 11 of “Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, as well as the task manager of the human settlements chapter of Agenda 21 and focal point for the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted during the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016.

WELCOME REMARKS



Prof. Norrinda Brown
Fordham University School of Law



Ms. Anne Amin
Legal specialist, UN-Habitat

SPEAKERS



Dr. Omar A. Guerrero

University Lecturer,
Centre for Social Data Science,
University of Helsinki



Dr. Abel Owotemu

Board Chair,
Centre for Climate Action,
Innovation & Engagement

PROGRAMME:

THURSDAY, 30th OCTOBER 2025 (16:00 – 17:00 EAT)

Moderator: Ms. Norah Katunga, Urban Law Officer, UN-Habitat			
Time	Name of Presenter	Title and Affiliation	Thematic Topic
Welcome remarks (10 mins)			
16:00 – 16:05	Prof. Norrinda Brown	Fordham University School of Law	Opening remarks/welcome address
16:05 – 16:10	Ms. Anne Amin	Legal specialist, UN-Habitat	Opening remarks/welcome address
Discussants (10 minutes each – 20 mins)			
Suggested topic: Better Urban Housing Laws and Policies through AI computation modelling; risks and opportunities			
16:10 – 16:20	Dr. Omar A. Guerrero	University Lecturer, Centre for Social Data Science, University of Helsinki	
16:20 – 16:30	Dr. Abel Owotemu	Board Chair, Centre for Climate Action, Innovation & Engagement	
16:30 - 16:55	Q&A Discussion		
16:55 – 17:00	Closing remarks (Moderator)		
END OF SESSION – THANK YOU!			

