INTA WINTER SESSION 2026

From Crisis to Resilience: Safety, Wellbeing and Human Dignity in Vulnerable Communities

2026 / ONLINE

Warm regards,
Helle Juul, INTA President

Registration :

FRAMEWORK

Session Introduction

Venezuela meets Africa: two perspectives on vulnerability, urban resilience and human wellbeing

What happens when people's sense of safety and wellbeing is challenged by multiple, interconnected crises? This session explores vulnerability from two different but complementary perspectives: the impact of natural disasters and societal crisis, and the everyday experience of safety, mental health and human rights in urban environments.

Through perspectives from Venezuela and Africa, the session will examine how resilient communities are built — not only through stronger infrastructure and urban planning, but by creating places where people can feel safe, supported and able to thrive.

24th November 2026

Prof. Zulma Bolívar – from the Instituto de Urbanismo, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning at the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas to discuss the complex challenges facing Venezuela and the future of its cities. Venezuela

Prof. Bolívar will share insights into how Venezuela is navigating the combined effects of economic and political challenges, natural disasters and climate-related pressures, including the devastating earthquake in June 2026.

She will explore how these crises affect communities, institutions and people's ability to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. Her perspective will also highlight the role of universities, knowledge and innovative urban planning in creating more resilient communities and new approaches to reconstruction and cooperation

Wangechi Grace Kahuria, Executive Director of the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU), will bring a human rights and psychosocial perspective to the session. Drawing on IMLU's work supporting survivors of torture and other human rights violations, she will explore how insecurity, violence and exclusion affect people's physical and mental wellbeing — and what it takes to restore dignity, safety and trust.
Her contribution will particularly highlight the experiences of women and other vulnerable groups, and the importance of combining psychosocial support, justice, accountability and institutional change in creating safer and more resilient communities.

***Bolívar** speaks about vulnerability created **by disasters,** institutional fragility and displacement, while **Kahuria** addresses vulnerability arising f**rom violence,** insecurity and human rights violations.*

*Both perspectives ultimately raise the question of **how we can rebuild the conditions that allow people to live safe and dignified lives**.*