

# CITIES WITHOUT SLUMS

THE CITIES Without Slums initiative is a creative and daring response to urban poverty.

Poverty reduction and upgrading of informal settlements will not be possible unless cities are productive and efficient and capable of providing the poor with economic opportunities to build their assets and incomes. - Nelson Mandela, patron of the Cities Without Slums action plan at its launch in December 1999.

The Cities Without Slums action plan sets an agenda and clear targets for improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

It focuses on upgrading the most squalid, unhealthy and unserved urban slums and squatter settlements in the world.

The Cities Without Slums action plan, a product of the Cities Alliance, has been endorsed at the highest political level internationally - by 150 heads of state and government - at the September 2000 UN Millennium Summit.

The plan also calls for:

- Increasing investments aimed at provision of basic services to the urban poor;
- Leading a worldwide effort to move from pilot projects to city-wide and nation-wide slum upgrading and to generate the required resources to do so, and;
- Investing in global knowledge, learning and capacity in slum upgrading, and for reducing the growth of new slums.