An aerial photograph of a densely packed slum. The foreground is dominated by lush green vegetation, including tall grasses and various trees. The middle ground shows a cluster of small, makeshift buildings with corrugated metal roofs and walls made of concrete or brick. Some buildings have laundry hanging from lines. In the background, a modern city skyline with several tall skyscrapers is visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

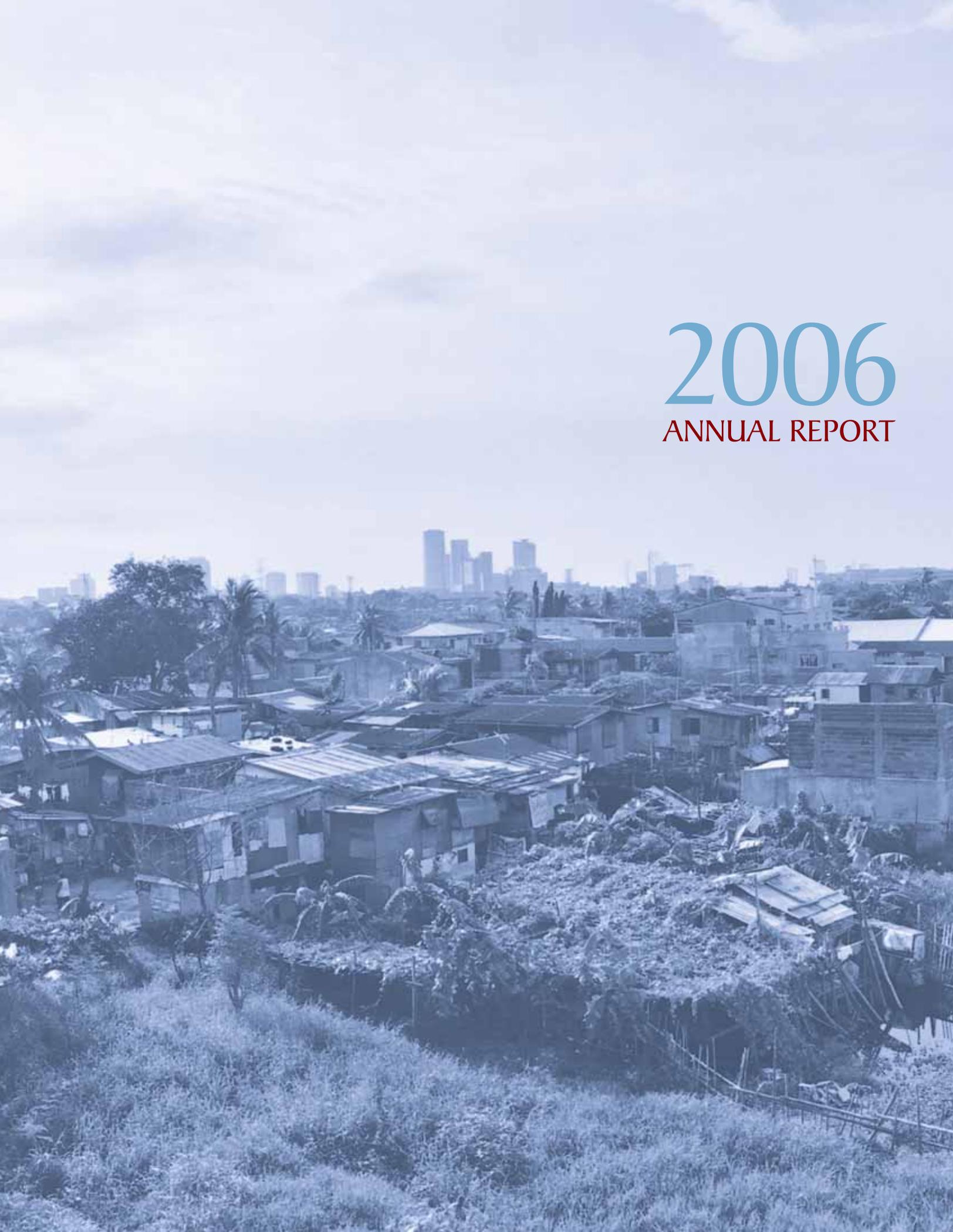
Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

2006
ANNUAL REPORT

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Cover photo: "The city of Muntinlupa, Metro Manila, lies on the edge of Laguna de Bay, the largest lake in the Philippines." © William Cobbett/Cities Alliance, 2006.



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FOREWORD

Our governments welcome the increasing sense of urgency that is now being paid to the environment. No matter how belated, the recognition of the environmental consequences of the world's growing population, increased industrial growth and wasteful and unequal consumption have signalled the need for fundamental shifts in policy, and in the way we all live.



**DR. MÁRCIO
FORTES**
Minister of State,
Ministry of Cities,
Brazil

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Márcio Fortes', written over the bottom right corner of the portrait and extending into the background image.

On behalf of the Governments of Brazil, Nigeria and South Africa, we are proud to present the 2006 Annual report of the Cities Alliance, which highlights the linkages between the urban environment, economic growth and poverty reduction. By focusing on citywide slum upgrading and city development strategies, and by insisting that it is the city that takes ownership and actively leads the process, the Cities Alliance provides a platform for its members to learn from cities all over the world.

Our governments welcome the increasing sense of urgency that is now being paid to the environment. No matter how belated, the recognition of the environmental consequences of the world's growing population, increased industrial growth and wasteful and unequal consumption have signalled the need for fundamental shifts in policy, and in the way we all live.

The debate on global warming, however, has largely obscured the local and human dimensions of environmental degradation. For hundreds of millions of poor people, the state of the environment is neither a global threat, nor a future problem. Its neglect and mis-management has been, for some decades, a life-threatening, daily reality.

The world's slums are as much an environmental concern as they are a concentration of urban poverty and social exclusion. The consequences of inappropriate national policy frameworks, and under-resourced and poorly managed cities, include the appalling living conditions endured by the urban poor, the increased incidences of preventable diseases, shortened life spans, and unacceptably high death rates.

We believe that our towns and cities have an increasingly vital role to play in creating the conditions for sustainable economic growth, improved environmental management and poverty reduction. To help cities achieve these goals, national governments need to be constantly looking for creative ways to strengthen local governments, match their increased responsibilities with real resources, and ensure that national frameworks help, rather than hinder, the developmental role of local governments.

We joined the Cities Alliance because of the leading international role that it plays in providing support to those cities and countries that want to change: cities and countries that wish to break out of short-term developmental models, and focus on the systemic changes that are required to ensure sustainable economic growth, a protected urban environment for the city, and a meaningful citizenship for its residents.



**DR. OLUSEGUN
MIMIKO**
Minister for
Housing and Urban
Development,
Nigeria

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olusegun Mimiko', with a horizontal line underneath.



**DR. LINDIWE
SISULU**
Minister of
Housing,
South Africa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindiwe Sisulu', with a horizontal line underneath.