



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **UN SECRETARY GENERAL HONOURS INDONESIAN PRESIDENT AS FIRST GLOBAL CHAMPION OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**BALI/GENEVA, 18 November 2011** – The United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, will tomorrow officially recognise the appointment of the Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, as the first UNISDR global champion of disaster risk reduction at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN summit in Bali as the region copes with the impact of record floods.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is the first person to be designated a global champion by the UN office for disaster risk reduction, UNISDR, and is being recognised for making disaster risk reduction a national priority following the Asian tsunami which hit the country on December 26, 2004, just two months after he took office.

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlstrom, commented: “Within weeks of taking office, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was confronted with one of the worst disasters in his country’s history. He rose to the occasion and set about transforming risk management in Indonesia through a series of far-reaching measures which will be an enduring part of his political legacy.

“Against the backdrop of the loss of lives and livelihoods which we have seen across the region this year as a result of floods and earthquakes, Indonesia is an example of how to align disaster management with other development priorities in order to strengthen the resilience of communities and individuals. Disaster response, post-disaster recovery and disaster risk reduction are now given equal importance and the country is much better prepared for small and major disasters.”

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was the first head of State to convert the international blueprint for disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities in Disasters into a national plan following which Indonesia adopted a new Disaster Risk Reduction law in 2007. As part of his new role as Global Champion, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will continue to advocate and promote the importance of disaster risk reduction particularly in the areas of school and hospital safety.

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#### **About UNISDR**

UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the *Hyogo*

*Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* which has been adopted by 168 countries and seeks “the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.” Over 130 countries now report on their disaster risk reduction efforts. The biennial Third Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in May 2011 and was opened by the UN Secretary General. It attracted several Heads of State and over 2,600 delegates representing 168 governments, 25 inter-governmental organizations, 65 NGOs and other ISDR partners. UNISDR has facilitated the creation of 38 National Disaster Data Bases around the world as part of its on-going global effort to lead and convince governments and the private sector to invest in risk reduction and avoid recurrent disaster losses which waste development resources. It has also mobilised over 900 cities and local governments to take part in the World Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign, *Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!* In early 2011, UNISDR supported the initiative by the President of the UN General Assembly to organize the first thematic debate on disaster risk reduction ever held in the UN General Assembly.

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