

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**CONFERMENT OF THE GLOBAL CHAMPION RECOGNITION FOR
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
TO H.E. MR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO, PRESIDENT OF INDONESIA
Bali, 19 November 2011**

Your Excellency, President Yudhoyono,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

When a disaster strikes, a leader's true character is revealed.

A few short months after you took office, Mr. President, the earth and sea rose up against Indonesia.

The damage from the 2004 tsunami was unprecedented.

But you had the wisdom to see that the lessons were just as historic.

The Asian tsunami was partly responsible for the development of our United Nations blueprint for disaster risk reduction: the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Your country was the first to act on it. You led the way ... and more than 100 other countries followed.

Now, every province in Indonesia has an independent disaster risk agency. The Government is reaching out to the most remote villages. And you are committed to the safety of this country's thousands of schools and hospitals.

Mr. President, I am honoured to be here today to recognize your outstanding work.

On behalf of the community of nations, it is my great pleasure to salute you as the world's first Global Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction.