

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE TO ROOTS OF PEACE HARVEST OF HOPE GALA**  
**Napa Valley, St. Helena, California, 11 November 2011**

It is my pleasure to greet all those attending this year's Roots of Harvest of Hope Gala. The 2011 recipients of the Global Citizen Award join a renowned list of previous honourees who have contributed to making a positive impact in the lives of the poor and vulnerable people around the world.

The United Nations has enjoyed a long and productive partnership with Roots of Peace to rid the world of landmines and explosive remnants of war, thereby erasing the horrific echoes of conflict and allowing men, women, boys and girls to live in dignity and security.

The most recent focus of Roots of Peace on the Middle East goes hand in hand with the work begun by the United Nations Mine Action Service in support of the Palestinian Authority.

Be it through "pennies for peace" or the generous contributions made this evening, support for Roots for Peace and all our partners in the field of mine action makes a profound impact across the United Nations agenda, from peace and security to humanitarian affairs, from development to human rights and international law.

Together we can -- in years, not decades -- close a chapter in history in which humankind seems intent on its own undoing, and look forward to a more constructive future of turning mines into vines.

I wish you a pleasant and enjoyable evening and offer heartfelt thanks for your generosity and abiding interest in this humanitarian cause.