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**Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
congratulates Martti AHTISAARI
on being awarded the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize**

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), issued the following statement today congratulating former Finish President, Martti AHTISAARI, on winning the Nobel Peace Prize:

"I want to convey my warmest congratulations to Martti Ahtisaari on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, a fitting honour that he truly deserves. He has made an enormous contribution to international conflict resolution over the past three decades and across several continents as President of Finland, in his work with the European Union, in senior positions at the United Nations and at the head of the 'Crisis Management Initiative', the NGO he set up.

Martti stands out on the international stage as one of the great diplomats and mediators of our time, in particular for his role in Namibia's move towards independence, in ending the conflict in Aceh, Indonesia, in the Balkans, especially Kosovo, and as an arms inspector in the Northern Ireland peace process.

Throughout his career, his commitment to promoting international peace, justice and reconciliation has been unwavering. I am delighted that today all this hard work is being acknowledged and rewarded by the Nobel Committee."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
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