World Humanitarian Summit Opens with Calls for Improving Response to Crisis

ISTANBUL – The first world humanitarian sum- mit opened here Monday — organized by the Secretary-General-Ban Ki-moon— with demands, aims and priorities from leaders and stakeholders to improve the global humanitar- ian system.

In his opening remarks to the three-day summit Ban called on the partici- pants to act, noting that the global com- munity had to be united in its efforts to address the humanitarian crises that threatened the survival of millions of civilians, leaving no one be- hind, while strengthening the humanitar- ian need and ensuring finding for humanitarian aid.

"Our task is to find new ways of mobilizing the global community in light of the new and emerging humanitarian challenges that we face, a new geostrategic landscape, new and increased needs of people around the world, and the inter- esting new opportunities as well," he added.

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It is expected that the summit will result in the adoption of a Declaration on Humanitarian Values and the formulation of a Roadmap for Implementing Humanitarian Values.

The summit will also provide an opportunity to address the challenges facing the humanitarian sector, including the need for greater funding, better coordination, and improved accountability.

Moreover, the summit will address the need to strengthen the humanitarian response to crises, including through the development of new tools and approaches for delivering aid and assistance.

Finally, the summit will seek to strengthen the global normative framework on humanitarian action, including through the development of a new humanitarian principles and standards.