

Ban Ki Moon Urges World Leaders to Unite

BY ERIN ARCHER

INTERNATIONAL - The World Humanitarian Summit will take place today, set to outline key issues regarding humanitarian issues.

The meetings will be split into three separate time slots.

Environmental and climate change issues will commence at 4pm, followed by discussion on refugees at 6pm, before concluding on talks on about the Future of Humanity at 8pm.

In a statement released to the press on Tuesday, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated the environment is a cornerstone to common humanity, and the world must work together to address environmental issues.

“We all live on the same earth, we all use the same earth resources and will continue to share this land and environment for billions of years,” he said.

The topics of the first meeting will include but are not limited to, responding and finding a resolution to the urgent rubbish situation in the Mediterranean, moving towards renewable energy and ensuring nations try to establish ways to overcome resource scarcity in energy.

Following this, in depth talks on the Syrian refugee crisis will be held, as well as a deliberation on conditions of the living conditions camps, in addition to a united plea for an agreement and commitment in regards refugees.

The final meeting on the future of humanity will discuss how to establish a program, what would be classified as a developmental assistance, and who would have the oversight of such a program.

Meantime the Syrian Government has announced it would not be in attendance at the summit through talks earlier in the week provoking a war of words between the Syrian and Egyptian Government.

President of Syria, Mr Bashar Al-Assad stated the Syrian government was reluctant to attend, as he believed their thoughts and ideals will not be respected.

This comment was backed up by Foreign Minister of Syria, Walid Muallem, who said the people of Syria would not be exposed to ridicule.

Mr Muallem took aim at the President of the Syrian National Coalition Anas Al-Abda, who earlier announced he would attend the summit

He said he believed Mr Al-Abda was appearing at the summit in order to oust the Assad government, and instil the pro-American Syrian coalition into power.

The President of Egypt, Abdel



President Obama and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon continue to strengthen their relations. *James Lemon for The New York Times*

Fattah al-Sisi was disappointed by the Syrian government’s decision in boycott the summit, and said Middle East leaders must work together to find stability in the region.

“Rejecting an invitation to a summit that would most likely benefit your people, for fear of damaging your own self-image is shameful beyond words,” he said.

In the lead up to today’s summit United Nations Secretary General Ban Mr Ki-moon asked attendees to provide their own talking points in preparation.

In response Mr al-Abda said he and the Syrian National Coalition planned on bringing a new plan to the summit, entitled “Operation Rebuild Syria”.

He said this plan will ensure displaced Syrian civilians can return to their homes sooner, and relieve pressure on neighbouring countries.

The outline for the operation talked about returning destroyed infrastructure to a reasonable level of safety, destroying all unexploded

bombs and IEDs, housing the millions displaced refugees, and providing a stable government and economy for the Syrian community.

Many world leaders will be in attendance including United States President Barack Obama, who confirmed his participation last Wednesday.

“As a committed permanent member of the UNSC, you can trust that you have the backing of the US at this summit,” he said.

In addition Prime Minister and acting President of Lebanon Tammam Salam also reaffirmed its own readiness to join the international effort.

“Lebanon reiterates its call to the international community, namely all prominent powers in the world, to rise above reluctance and lingering and to stop fighting with Syrian blood and on Syrian territory,” he said.

Mr Ban said the summit will ensure the notion that crises are borderless, and humanity must redirect towards shared similarities.