**NAME; OSENI-BAKO NAOMI OCHUWA.**

**MATRIC NO; 18/SMS09/079.**

**LEVEL; 200.**

**SEMESTER; SECOND.**

**COLLEGE; SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES. (SMS).**

**DEPARTMENT; INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY. (IRD).**

**CODE; IRD 202.**

**TITLE; PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

**QUESTION; IDENTIFY THE ROLES OF SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC GLOBALLY.**

International organizations over the years have had different definitions but basically it can be generally defined as formal organizations with members from three or more states that have specific set of goals and pursue them. There are mainly two categories of International Organizations. The first is intergovernmental organization (IGO) whose members are states represented by their government they include, WHO, UN, AU, EU, etc. The other category is the international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) whose members are made up of individuals, groups, or associations, examples include Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, etc. An international organisation can also be described as an organisation established by a treaty or other instrument governed by international law and possessing its own international legal personality.

COVID-19 on the other hand also known as coronavirus emerged on the 31st of December,2019 in Wuhan, a city in China. Coronaviruses are types of viruses that typically affect the respiratory tracts of birds and mammals, including humans. The name “coronavirus” comes from the crown-like projections on their surfaces. “Corona” in Latin means “halo” or “crown.” Doctors associate them with the common cold, bronchitis, pneumonia, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and they can also affect the gut. These viruses are typically responsible for common colds more than serious diseases. However, coronaviruses are also behind some more severe outbreaks. Researchers first identified a coronavirus in 1937. They found a coronavirus responsible for an infectious bronchitis virus in birds that had the ability to devastate poultry stocks. Scientists first found evidence of human coronaviruses (HCoV) in the 1960s in the noses of people with common cold. The coronavirus outbreak came about again in 2020 in China. Among humans, coronavirus infections most often occur during the winter months and early spring. People regularly become ill with a cold due to a coronavirus and may catch the same one about 4 months later. This is because coronavirus antibodies do not last for a long time. Also, the antibodies for one strain of coronavirus may be ineffective against another one.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment.  Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. At present time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19 but there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. This virus has spread far wide other countries. As of February 24, Chinese health authorities had acknowledged over 78,000 cases and 2,710 deaths. Hubei Province has been the hardest hit by Covid-19, with most of the infections occurring in Wuhan itself. The list of other countries that have confirmed infections includes Hong Kong, Macao, Japan, South Korea, Italy, Singapore, Iran, the US, Thailand, Taiwan, Australia, Malaysia, Vietnam, France, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Canada, Philippines, Kuwait, India, Russia, Spain, Lebanon, Israel, Belgium, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Cambodia, Finland and Egypt. The various countries especially china and US blocked their borders from allowing people to enter or go out in order to reduce the spread.

Over the past few weeks the virus has continued to spread around the world, including African countries and its said that there is no more coronavirus in the place it was first established that is Wuhan, there were series of death, fumigation of the country and the patients recovered. The numbers of cases are still increasing in other countries and various international organizations have come into the matter to help in the fight of the virus.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is basically the main international organization involved in the fight. The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. It is part of the U.N. Sustainable Development Group. The WHO Constitution, which establishes the agency's governing structure and principles, states its main objective as ensuring "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland, with six semi-autonomous regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide. The WHO was established on the 7th of April 1948, which is known as World Health Day. The first meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), that is the first meeting of the WHO, the agency's governing body, took place on 24 July 1948. The WHO incorporated the assets, personnel, and duties of the League of Nations Health Organization, including the International Classification of Diseases. Its work officially began in 1951 following a significant infusion of financial and technical resources. The WHO's principle or agenda includes advocating for universal healthcare, monitoring public health risks, coordinating responses to health emergencies, and promoting human health and wellbeing. It provides technical assistance to countries, sets international health standards and guidelines, and collects data on global health issues through the World Health Survey. The WHO also serves as a forum for summits and discussions on health issues. The World Health Organization (WHO) is leading the global fight against COVID-19.  While WHO medical experts supporting Government responses, the health agency announced the launch of the “[Pass the message to kick out coronavirus](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/23-03-2020-pass-the-message-five-steps-to-kicking-out-coronavirus)” campaign by teaming up with FIFA, the international governing body of football. The WHO declared the coronavirus as a pandemic, the organization has since been struggling to end the virus since it came about, they have so far performed specific roles that could help control the pandemic, one of these roles is the who has been educating the public about the virus in the sense that they gave safety tips in other to avoid the virus these tips include,

* Regular washing of hands with soap and under running water.
* Regular use of sanitizer
* The wearing of face mask and hand gloves.
* When one wants to cough or sneeze he/she should block it with their elbow instead of palms.
* Avoid shaking or hugging that is people should exhibit social distancing, etc.

They also play the role of providing clinical facilities and other medical supports to countries who are experiencing the pandemic. The (WHO) basically deals with enlightening the public about the COVID-19, provision of health reliefs.

Another international organization that has played a major role in combating the coronavirus is the WORLD BANK, giving an example of the case in Kenya, the World Bank committed 60 million U.S. dollars to help the Kenya government respond to COVID-19, including 50 million dollars from COVID-19 financing facility and 10 million dollars from contingency emergency response component of transforming health systems for universal care project. The world bank on the case of the coronavirus is basically dealing with provision of funds to countries affected with the virus and granting loans to countries to use and fight the virus, they also provide relief materials like foodstuffs and other necessary materials for the survival of the people of the countries affected.

The UNITED NATIONS (UN), is another international organization that has played a major role in combating the virus, the United Nations was established in 1945, as a general body to look into the affairs of its member states. The UN has tried to bring nations of the world together as one to fight the virus and also give tangible advice to the public, they set up specific goals and measures which they have undertaken over the past few months of the pandemic outbreak. The UN established that one of the most effective ways to slow down transmission is to wash or sanitize hands. However, globally three billion people do not have access to even basic hand washing facilities at home.  Lack of access to clean water affects vulnerability to disease and ill health. It is for this reason that [UN-Water](https://www.unwater.org/joint-statement-for-world-water-day-and-world-meteorological-day-2020/) members and partners are committing to the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, which will unify the international community and deliver fast results in countries. The UN has also mobilized virtual teams to combat COVID-19.

REFERENCES.

* Wikpedia.com
* History of international organizations
* [www.unitednations.com](http://www.unitednations.com)
* WHO handbook.