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MATRIC NUMBER: 18/SMS09/060

LEVEL: 200 LEVEL

COURSE: IRD 202- PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

QUESTION:

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

INTRODUCTION

First of all what is an international organization? An international organization can be defined as a formal organization having three or more states as its members and also having a defined set of goals which is bound by a formal agreement. The union if international associations, a coordinating body, differentiates between the more than 250 international governmental organizations(IGOs), which have been established by intergovernmental agreements and whose members are states and the approximately 6,000 non-governmental organizations(NGOs), whose members or individuals, these organizations are grouped into both intergovernmental organization and international non-governmental organizations. the main aim of international organization is to help states in difficult situations or problem, sometimes crisis affects the whole world like the corona virus pandemic its not only killing people, but it is also affecting the economy of nations . Also in 2010 a severe earthquake struck Haiti. The destruction caused by the quake was too great for the country to handle by itself, so other nations sent food, water, medical supplies and people to help other concerns affects many nations such issues includes climate change, pollution and trade. Nations often hold talks with one another to discuss these matters, Diplomats or officials who represents their country’s government, meet and try to work out ways to address common concerns. COVID-19 ( corona virus infectious disease 2019), according to world health organization (WHO), corona viruses are a family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome(SARS) and the middle east respiratory syndrome(MERS). These viruses were originally transmitted from animals to people. SARS, for instance, was transmitted from civet cats to humans from type of camel. The name corona viruses comes fro the latin word corona, meaning crown or halo. Under an electron microscope, the virus look like it is surrounded by a solar corona the virus on march 11 was declared by the WHO as a pandemic. The international health alerts is a call to countries around the world to coordinate their response under the guidance of the WHO there have been five global health emergencies since 2005 when the declaration was formalized: swine flu in 2009, polio 2014, Ebola 2014, zika in 2016,Ebola again in 2019 and COVID-19.some international organizations have responded to the pandemic by providing aids , medical supplies and financial support for the third world counties

WORLD BANK

It was established in 1944 at the UN monetary and financial conference (commonly known as the Bretton woods conference)which was convened to establish a new, post-world war II, international economic system, the world bank officially began operation in June 1946.World bank group, international organization affiliated with the United Nations (UN) and designed to finance projects that enhance the economic development of member states. Headquartered in Washington, D.C, the bank is the largest source of financial assistance to developing countries. It also provided technical assistance and policy advice and supervises , on behalf of international creditor , the implementation of free market reforms. Together with the international monetary funds (IMF) and the world trade organization, it plays a central role in the overseeing economic policy and reforming public institutions in developing countries an defining the global macroeconomic agenda.

HOW THE WORLD BANK HAS RESPONDED TO THE COVID-19

Many of the world’s low and middle income countries are still in the early stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the impact is already being felt. Health system are strained in Ethiopia and yemen; more medical staff are needed in countries such as Haiti and Mongolia. Millions of children can’t go to school in Pakistan and need solutions for remote learning. The risks posed by the corona virus are especially high for millions of people who live in poverty or have only recently emerged from it. The world bank groups is acting quickly to step up support as countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis and face a wide range of consequences, including the risk of global recession. With the approval from its Board, the world bank group is immediately launching emergency support through operations around the world, And this urgent help to government and companies is just the start of a broader effort. Given the unprecedented challenges that COVID-19 poses, the bank Group expects to deploy up to $160 billion over the next months to help countries protect the poor and vulnerable , support businesses, and bolster economic recovery. “the world bank Groups is taking broad, fast action to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and we already have health response operations moving forward in over 65 countries” said the world bank Group president DAVID MALPASS, the work bank is trying to strengthen developing nations’s ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and shorten the time to economic and social recovery. The poorest and most vulnerable countries will likely be hit the hardest, and our teams around the world remain focused on country-level and regional solutions to address the ongoing crisis, also the world bank is helping countries access critically needed medical supplies by reaching out to suppliers on behalf of governments. The world bank is also encouraging others to provide financial support to developing countries for the COVID-19 health response.

UNITED NATIONS

International organization established on October 24, 1945, the UN was the second multipurpose international organization established in the 20th century that was worldwide in scope and membership. Its predecessor, the league of nations, was created by the treaty of Versailles in 1919 and disbanded in 1946. Headquartered in new York city, the UN also has a regional offices in Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi, its official languages are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. In addition to maintaining peace and security, other important objectives include developing friendly relations among countries based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; achieving worldwide cooperation to solve international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems; respecting, and promoting human rights; and serving as a centre where countries can coordinate their actions and activities towards these various ends

HOW THE UN HAS RESPONDED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

UN launches US$2 billion global humanitarian response to fight COVID-19 in 51 countries across south America, Africa, the middle east and Asia. Governments urged to commit to fully supporting the global humanitarian response plan, while sustaining humanitarian appeals. COVID-19 has killed more than 16,000 people worldwide and there are nearly 400,000 reported cases. It has a foothold across the globe and is now reaching countries that were already facing humanitarian crisis because of conflict , natural disasters and climate change. The response plan will be implemented by UN agencies, with international NGOs and NGO consortia playing a direct role in the response. It will

1. Deliver essential laboratory equipments to test for the virus, and medical supplies to treat people
2. Install handwashing stations in camps and settlements
3. Launch public information campaigns on how to protect yourself and others from the virus , and
4. Establish airbridges and hubs across Africa, Asia and Latin America to move humanitarian workers and supplies to where they are needed most.

“COVID-19 is menacing the whole of humanity and so the whole of humanity must fight back. Individual country responses are not going to be enough. We must come to the aid of the ultra vulnerable-millions upon millions of people who are atleast able to protect themselves. This is a matter of basic human solidarity. It is also crucial for combating the virus. This a moment to step up for vulnerable”(united nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres). For instance in, Nigeria, the united nations children;s fund(UNICEF) is supporting awareness campaigns by health educators in all 376 wards in all the local governments areas off Lagos state, which makes up more than 14 million people, and similar programs in other parts of Nigeria, including delta state. Also the UN has responded to the COVID-19 by creating campaigns to explain what coronavirus is, its symptoms, mode of transmission, ways to prevent it. A team carried out simulations of how to wash hands properly with soap and water for atleast 20 seconds, and how to sneeze or cough properly into the elbow, especially in public. School children were excited and curious to see the handwashing demonstration. the UN is also fighing against false information being circulated, which includes that the virus cannot survive in Africa because of Hot weather, that taking a high dose of Chloroquine medication can protect you, and that consuming large quantities of ginger and garlic can prevent the virus. Finally, the UN donated three ambulances to Lagos state in Nigeria on 8 april, as part of its support to government led effort in curbing the spread the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the most populous city in Africa. Other essential preventive,testing and treatment equipment has also procured by the UN and is expected to arrive Nigeria soon. So far, some 254 cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in Nigeria, twice the number from a week ago, and six people have died. Lagos , with population of 21 million people with many living in overcrowded neighbourhoods, has recorded the highest number of COVID-19 in the country.

AFRICAN UNION

The African union is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that makes up the countries of the African continent, it was officially launched in 2002 as a successor to the organization of African unity OAU (1963-199) , in may 1963, 32 heads of independent African states met In ADDIS ABABA Ethiopia to sign the charter creating Africa’s first post independence continental institution. The main aim of the OAU were to rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization and apartheid; to promote unity and solidarity amongst African states, to coordinate and intensify cooperation for development, to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states and to promote international cooperation .

THE AU RESPONSE TO COVID -19

Africa represents the third wave of the spread of COVID-19, but its impact may significantly undermine the reform, programmes and operations of the African union .COVID-19 infection rates in Africa are still lagging far behind east asia, Europe and north America, but the virus has now arrived in most African countries, The numbers of confirmed cases, with approximately 5000 confirmed cases by the end of march. From the onset, African countries have recognized that they will not be able to cope on their own with the potential magnitude of this pandemic, and they have turned to the AU , and the UN and other for the assistance with coordination, prevention , preparedness and containment, African health ministers have met already in February to start coordinating the African response. Similarly, the African minister finance minister met virtually in mid march to coordinate their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Amongst others they have called for a debt interest payment waiver to increase liquidity, so that African countries can be in a better position to increase health spending and stimulate their economies. Yet, the travel restrictions and social distancing measures introduced by the AU and African countries to prevent and contain the spread of the union to help contain the pandemic, on the 13 march the commission suspended all AU meeting until further notice. The AU is an intergovernmental body that is reliant on members state direction and engagement ,in Africa at the continental level the AU commission through its center of disease control developed a continent –wide strategy with two overarching goal of

1 preventing severe illness and death from COVID-19 , infection in member states and

2 minimizing social disruption and economic consequence of COVID-19 outbreak, such action envisaged that in Africa .Also at the continental level, the AU has acted swiftly to establish a corona virus fund with commitments already totaling USD20 million , at the nation level most African countries have implemented lockdowns , testing and contact tracing .

In conclusion, around the world both international and regional organization have responded to the COVID-19 through desperate and disparate efforts are being implemented to contain this disruptive pandemic. The corona virus has killed millions of people in the united states, Spain, Italy, Germany ,France , the united kingdom , china , Iran , and many more. These international organization have contributed both financially and medically to stop the spread of corona virus and preserve the human race.

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