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**18/SMS09/081**

**IRD 202**

**QUESTION: IDENTIFY THE ROLES OF SPECIFIC INTERNATINAL ORGANISATION IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC GLOBALLY.**

Coronavirus disease (covid-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will 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, so it’s important that individuals also practice respiratory etiquette such as coughing into a flexed elbow.

Many international organisations have contributed thoroughly to the fight to stop the spread of the pandemic, such organisations includes IOM (international organisation for migration), EBRD (European bank for reconstruction and development), EC (European commission), RCC (regional cooperation council), WB (world bank), ICC (international chambers of commerce), UN (united nations), IRU (international road transport union) etc..

On the 15th of April, the IOM launched a USD 499 million COVID-19 Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) to support vital preparedness, response and recovery activities in over 140 countries, IOM aspired to support countries that may need additional resources – financial, technical or operational - to help ensure that further COVID-19 infections are prevented, and to assist health systems so they have increased capacity to cope with additional requirements. The SPRP comprises of a wide range of activities in all regions of the world including:

* Emergence of humanitarian needs in new settings;
* Cross-border coordination;
* Capacity building for government staff on disease surveillance;
* Setting up or enhancing hand-washing facilities at entry points;
* Monitoring and mapping of people’s movements within and across borders;
* Improvement of displacement sites to ensure sites safety and hygiene and that livelihoods are sustained;
* And the dissemination of information on how to stay healthy, specifically targeting migrants, refugees, and displaced persons.

 On the 25th of march the UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres launched the COVID-19 global Humanitarian Response Plan. The COVID-19 Global HRP is a joint effort by members of the Inter-Agency standing committee (IASC), including UN< other international organisations and NGOs with a humanitarian mandate, to analyse and respond to the direct public health and indirect immediate humanitarian consequences of the pandemic, particularly on people in countries already facing other crises.

The Global HRP identifies the most affected and vulnerable population groups in priority countries, including countries with an ongoing humanitarian response plan or multi-country/sub-regional response plan, as well as countries that have requested international assistance, such as Iran. Updates to existing country plans should be initiated to ensure that humanitarian organisations are prepared and able to meet the additional humanitarian need occasioned by the pandemic. Further updates to these plans will likely be necessary if a major outbreak occurs. In other countries, a humanitarian response plan/flash appeal should be considered if they are unable to cope with the emergency.

 The European Commission is another organisation that responded to the present outbreak, their response to COVID-19 focuses on four priorities:

* Limiting the spread of the virus
* Ensuring the provision of medical equipment’s
* Promoting research for treatments and vaccines
* Supporting jobs, businesses and the economy

The EU is also helping EU citizens stranded in third countries. EU delegations are working with member states’ embassies to coordinate the repatriation of EU citizens. These priorities were agreed on by EU leader who regularly meet by video conference to discuss and assess the EU’s response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The EU is working together with its member states to contain the spread of the virus, to slow down the transmission of the virus, EU leaders agreed on a coordinated temporary restriction of non-essential travel to the EU for 30 days. The travel of European citizens outside the EU is also discouraged. To coordinate the EU response to the COVID-19 outbreak:

* The council activated the EU integrated political crises response (IPCR) holding weekly roundtables gathering EU institution, EU agencies experts and representatives of affected member states
* The European commission and the council are facilitating permanent contact and coordination between relevant national ministries
* The president of the European commission holds video conferences with EU leaders

The European Centre for disease control(ECDC) is issuing rapid risk assessments and epidemiological updates for the EU population.

 In conclusion, thousands of international organisations, both from private and public sectors are responding to the outbreak of the pandemic distinctively in order to bring an end to the raging virus. It could be through informing individual and creating awareness, advocating for hygienic and safety measures, provision of medical equipment, donating funds etc.