ASSIGNMENT

COURSE TITLE: PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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QUESTION;

Identify the role of specific international organization in responding to covid-19 pandemic globally

Corona viruses are a group of associated [viruses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virus) that cause diseases in [mammals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammals) and [birds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birds). In humans, corona viruses cause [respiratory tract infections](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Respiratory_tract_infection) that can range from mild to lethal. Mild illnesses include some cases of the [common cold](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_cold), while more lethal varieties can cause [SARS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severe_acute_respiratory_syndrome), [MERS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East_respiratory_syndrome), and [COVID-19](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronavirus_disease_2019). Symptoms in other species vary: in chickens, they cause an [upper respiratory tract disease](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_respiratory_tract_infection), while in cows and pigs they cause [diarrhea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diarrhea). There are yet to be [vaccines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaccine) or [antiviral drugs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antiviral_drug) to prevent or treat human corona virus infections. This pandemic has been a case of focus for international organizations including the World Bank. The World Bank is an [international financial institution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_financial_institution) that provides loans and grants to the governments of poorer countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects. It comprises two institutions: the [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Bank_for_Reconstruction_and_Development) (IBRD), and the [International Development Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Development_Association) (IDA). The World Bank is a component of the [World Bank Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank_Group).

As countries around the world work to contain the spread and impact of COVID-19, the World Bank Group is moving quickly to provide fast, flexible responses to help developing countries strengthen their pandemic response and health care systems. The World Bank Group is deploying up to $160 billion in long-term financial support over the next 15 months – with an emphasis on policy-based financing and protecting the poorest households. This includes a $14 billion fast-track package to respond to immediate COVID-19 health and economic needs.

We are also helping countries access critically needed medical supplies by reaching out to suppliers on behalf of governments. The World Bank’s immediate, emergency operational response for health is meant for one purpose – saving lives. It focuses on: Preventing and limiting local transmission, through laboratory equipment, improved surveillance systems, and training of front-line responders & Goods and services such as gloves, masks, and portable ventilators & Building or expanding clinical care facilities, such as refurbishing intensive care units or inpatient facilities in hospitals and preparing quarantine facilities & Building systems for real-time community-based disease surveillance and through proactive, evidence-based citizen engagement & Strengthening collaboration for research and response to facilitate the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and other measures.

Countries are accessing support through a dedicated, fast-track facility. In addition, the World Bank is working worldwide to redeploy existing resources in World Bank financed projects, including through restructuring, use of emergency components of existing projects (CERCs) and triggering of Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown’s (CAT DDOs). A critical component of the emergency response to this crisis is engagement with the private sector, so the International Finance Corporation is playing a key role supporting companies to continue operating and to sustain jobs & $2 billion from the Real Sector Crisis Response Facility, which will support existing clients in the infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture and services industries vulnerable to the pandemic. IFC will offer loans to companies in need, and if necessary, make equity investments. This instrument will also help companies in the healthcare sector that are seeing an increase in demand & $2 billion from the existing Global Trade Finance Program, which will cover the payment risks of financial institutions so they can provide trade financing to

Companies that import and export goods . IFC expects this will support small and medium-sized enterprises involved in global supply chains. & $2 billion from the Working Capital Solutions program, which will provide funding to emerging-market banks to extend credit to help businesses shore up their working capital, the pool of funds that firms use to pay their bills and compensate workers. & $2 billion from the Global Trade Liquidity Program, and the Critical Commodities Finance Program, both of which offer risk-sharing support to local banks so they can continue to finance companies in emerging markets.

[Special provisions for fast-track financing are allowing an initial group of World Bank projects totaling $1.9 billion to get underway quickly in 25 countries.](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/04/02/the-world-bank-group-moves-quickly-to-help-countries-respond-to-covid-19) Bank teams are also working with clients to rapidly redeploy a further $1.7 billion from existing projects to urgent pandemic response and recovery. This includes restructuring and use of projects’ emergency components as well as contingent financing instruments designed for catastrophes.

The focus of these first efforts is to help health systems tackle the immediate challenges of COVID-19. For example, in countries ranging from Afghanistan and Haiti to India, Mongolia, and Tajikistan, the financing will help bring more medical staff onboard and ensure that they are well trained and equipped to deliver emergency care.  In countries like Ecuador and the Kyrgyz Republic, it will help ensure that public outreach that gets strong prevention and protection messages to citizens in the short and medium term.  And in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Yemen, among other countries, the increase in resources to fight the pandemic will also support long-term efforts that strengthen and build the capacity of the national health system. The Democratic Republic of Congo illustrates the range of help that the Bank’s projects will provide, from early detection of the virus to contact tracing, a cordon sanitaria to limit the spread from the capital, and large-scale public information campaigns. The financing will also equip and rehabilitate key primary care facilities so that they can operate at the standards needed to combat the pandemic. In Pakistan, the Bank’s support will be crucial to making remote learning available for 50 million children whose schools have had to close.  The emergency financing here will also enable basic food to reach 40,000 people whose movement will be restricted for up to 6 months, and it will train health workers to watch for and help prevent gender-based violence in households under quarantine.

The ability to innovate is how societies can rescue and remake themselves in times of crisis. We are finding this especially true now as hospitals around the globe are concerned about treating a mass influx of COVID-19 patients, all needing care at the same time. Innovation has only recently assumed the meaning of a technical improvement. But in today’s global human crisis, the meaning of innovation gets closer to its original Greek term: kainotomía. This word means “[introducing change to the established order](http://www.csiic.ca/PDF/Antiquity.pdf)”, “opening new ways, directions and understandings”, and especially “sharing a law among a community.” As we noted in our [previous blog](https://blogs.worldbank.org/digital-development/covid-19-compassion-click-away), and as the world quickly adapts to the ever-shifting landscape, so should the rules and regulations that govern innovation.Crises require a rapid response. In the COVID-19 context, innovation can mean ignoring “old” regulations even if a system discourages this. This is what happened when two young Italian entrepreneurs were contacted by a [local hospital in Brescia](https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/17/21184308/coronavirus-italy-medical-3d-print-valves-treatments), Italy, which was in dire need of valve components for ventilators. The pair asked the product’s manufacturer for access to their technical drawings, so they could use a 3D printer to rapidly manufacture the valves. The manufacturer declined, because it would breach their intellectual property rights. Undaunted, the entrepreneurs figured out how to use 3D-imaging techniques to reverse-engineer the valve, printed it at a very low cost, and delivered it to the hospital—saving at least ten lives through their ingenuity and quick action. Emergencies can also prompt large, established companies to innovate. Automobile manufacturers, such as [GM and Ford](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/05/automakers-gm-ford-ventilators-coronavirus-detroit) in the United States, and [Ferrari, Fiat Chrysler, and parts manufacturer Marelli](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-ventilators-italy/ferrari-fiat-look-at-helping-italy-make-ventilators-in-coronavirus-crisis-idUSKBN2162YT) in Italy, and [Rolls-Royce, Jaguar, and Land-Rover in the United Kingdom](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-meggitt-ventilator/british-carmakers-and-aerospace-groups-answer-call-to-make-ventilators-idUSKBN2161UA) are partnering with ventilator manufacturers to expand the production of these critical devices. Using advanced design techniques and 3D printing, [Virgin Orbit](https://www.wired.com/story/race-build-more-ventilators-coronavirus/) innovated to design a simpler ventilator with commonly available materials. In some cases, companies are modifying their existing facilities to produce ventilators, but this could potentially take months; others are providing engineering guidance to help ventilator manufacturing plants scale up production. Still others are pursuing both approaches. One very notable example, is Medtronic that has [shared its portable ventilator design and code](https://techcrunch.com/2020/03/30/medtronic-is-sharing-its-portable-ventilator-design-specifications-and-code-for-free-to-all/) for free to all.

The COVID-19 crisis is forcing companies to be creative, spurring them to modify existing products to maximize their efficiency in a time of extreme demand. [Intersurgical](file:///C:\Users\crossotto\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\23F8N3HS\%22https:\www.bracknellnews.co.uk\news\18322468.wokinghams-intersurgical-plays-part-coronavirus-pandemic\%22), a leading designer, manufacturer, and supplier of respiratory support medical devices, is working to [develop and rapid prototype a ventilator that can serve multiple patients at the same time](https://www.ilrestodelcarlino.it/modena/cronaca/coronavirus-intersurgical-1.5074681), instead of just one. The [Sant’Orsola](https://www.gofundme.com/f/coronavirus-sant039orsola-hospital-bologna) hospital in Bologna and the [Policlinico](https://www.gofundme.com/f/aiutiamo-irccs-policlinico-di-milano) hospital in Milan are simultaneously deploying this innovative solution. Emerging markets, like [Lebanon](https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1212704/in-lebanon-two-prototypes-of-artificial-respirators-are-ready-for-first-testing.html) and [Morocco](https://www.medias24.com/covid-19-conception-et-fabrication-d-un-respirateur-100-marocain-9171.html), for example, have shown that they can also be at the forefront of innovation, by rapidly designing and started production of new lines of ventilators in record time. This crisis is proving to be a monumental social challenge, even in the [nations with high-performing health systems and an abundance of resources](https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6484/1287). When the COVID-19 crisis strikes developing countries, populations may face even greater hurdles, such as greater supply chain disruption and a lack of domestic production facilities. Multilateral institutions can play an important role by [offering essential financial packages to governments and the private sector](https://www.devex.com/news/world-bank-ifc-look-to-quickly-deploy-covid-19-funds-96813), quickly and where they need them the most. This will also mean building local capacity and providing smart solutions that can help [rapidly equip](https://medium.com/frontier-technology-livestreaming/frontier-tech-4-covid-action-emerging-market-ventilation-systems-9c818cb46189) local first-aid responders to manage still emerging, highly unpredictable crises such as COVID-19. They can also support decentralized production and delivery of necessary equipment to affected areas as well as global efforts to discover vaccines and cures. Companies investing billions of dollars in pharmaceutical research and development need intellectual property (IP) protections. But, in times of crisis, strict IP protections may also hinder the rapid and cost-effective deployment of vaccines and industrial materials that are so urgently needed. There should be discussion among the international community on new approaches, such as the creation of a new global fund that could subsidize lower-cost drugs, allow temporary breaches of IP rules for life-saving materials and equipment, and partially compensate private companies for emergency-driven breaches of their intellectual property. This crisis forced the unexpected: prior to last month, the world would have never expected that car manufacturers would suddenly be needed to produce ventilators. Relaxing IP rules and being more flexible with “old” regulations in this unprecedented crisis will enable the decentralized digital production of medical equipment that can save lives, as we have already seen. Imagine being able to build an artificial ventilator in large quantities and close to an emergency site using locally produced parts? Putting all our tools and technologies to work today is a moral imperative. In a rapidly-evolving emergency, when it is unclear what is needed and where, flexibility is a vital ingredient. Adopting smart, and nimble regulatory approaches that empower startups and decentralized networks of “[makers communities](https://www.baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/bs-md-open-works-makers-masks-20200322-iguggy3hg5cidhnpfsvbh4u6se-story.html)” to craft innovative solutions will be valuable for the crisis we face now, and also an important asset to tackle still-unknown crises in future years. This will require addressing the [upstream](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/careers_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/ifc+careers/upstream) bottlenecks to innovation and private sector development, and we will need to use all of our [tools and programs](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/Topics_Ext_Content/IFC_External_Corporate_Site/Venture+Capital/Special+initiatives/Startup+Catalyst/) to [channel innovation where it is needed the most](https://www.techemerge.org/).

References

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