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18/SMS09/057

IRD 202

Question

Identify the roles of specific international organizations 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 best way to prevent and slow down transmission is be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. A known method of preventing infection is by washing your hands or using an alcohol-based rub frequently and not touching your face. 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 you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19 and this pandemic has led to several deaths of individuals around the world. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments.

**ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN TO FIGHT AGAINST COVID19**

**THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)**

WHO has issued a COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, which identifies the major actions countries need to take, and the resources needed to carry them out.

The plan, which is updated as fresh information and data improve WHO’s understanding of the characteristics of the virus and how to respond, acts as a guide for developing country-specific plans.

The health agency’s six regional offices, and 150 country offices, work closely with governments around the world to prepare their health systems for the ravages of COVID-19, and to respond effectively when cases arrive and begin to mount.

With partners, World Health Organization set up the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, to ensure patients get the care they need, and frontline workers get essential supplies and information; and to accelerate research and development of a vaccine and treatments for all who need them. With donations from governments, the private sector and individuals, more than $800 million has been pledged or received for the response so far.

Also, WHO is aiming to train millions of health workers, via its Open World Health Organization platform. Thanks to this online tool, life-saving knowledge is being transferred to frontline personnel by the Organization, and its key partners World Health Organization. Users take part in a worldwide, social learning network, based on interactive, online courses and materials covering a variety of subjects. World Health Organization also serves as a forum for the rapid sharing of public health expertise, and in-depth discussion and feedback on key issues. So far, more than 1.2 million people have enrolled in 43 languages.

Countries are also being supported by experts, deployed around the world by the WHO’s Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN). During outbreaks, the network ensures that the right technical expertise and skills are on the ground where and when they are needed most. Emergency Medical Teams are also an important part of the global health workforce. These teams are highly trained, and self-sufficient, and are sent to places identified as disaster or emergency zones.

**UNITED NATIONS (U.N)**

The United nations has seen to have contributed immensely to the war against the global pandemic COVID-19. This can be seen in the donations it made to several third world countries for example Nigeria. The united nations donated equipment, which included, among other things, 50 ventilators, will go a long way in boosting the nation’s capacity to contain the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Also, in Lagos a state in Nigeria, the united nations donated ambulances to the Lagos state government, which will aid in the fight against the dreaded corona virus in the state.

**International Monetary Fund (I.M.F)**

The international monetary fund also has aided in the war against COVID-19 through the debt service relief it granted to developing nations who are indebted to them, countries that received debt service relief were: Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, D.R., The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Togo, and Yemen. This is to enable the poor nations, to use the funds from the debt service relief to serve as grants which they are to use in the fifght against COVID-19.

Here, it can be seen in lay man terms that the **INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUNDS** gave these countries some time to off to pay their debt and they are to channel the funds they were meant to use to pay their debt to fight COVID-19.

**EUROPEAN UNION**

The European continental body popularly known as the European Union has supported the fight against the dreaded COVID­-19. The organization through its delegates who were sent to Nigeria to meet with the Nigerian President, made a donated of 55 million Dollars to support Nigeria in their efforts in the war against COVID-19.

The European Union through its delegates said that the funds are to be used to provide relief materials to the poor in the Nigerian society during this period of COVID-19.

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