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Question

Identify the roles of specific international organization in responding to COVID- 19 pandemic globally.

Answer

-The World Health Organisation (WHO), the UN’s health agency, has played a crucial role in tackling the COVID- 19 pandemic, ever since the first case were identified in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December. At a press conference on Wednesday, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, outlined five ways the agency is leading the global response.

1. Helping countries to prepare and respond

Medical staff at Mount Sinai hospital in Astoria in New York City, wait to be tested for the corona virus, by UN photo/Evan Schneider 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, act 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, WHO set up the COVID- 19, and to respond effectively when cases arrive and begin to mount?

1. Providing accurate information, busting dangerous myths

Medical items donated to Italy to fight the corona virus outbreak and prepared for dispatch to China. The internet is awash with information about the pandemic, some of it useful, some of it false or misleading. In the midst of this “infodemic”, WHO is producing accurate, useful guidance that can help save lives. This includes around 50 pieces of technical advice for the public, health workers and countries, with evidence-based guidance on every element of the response, and exploding dangerous myths.

* The IMF

Since the pandemic’s outbreak, prices of risk asset have fallen sharply. At the worst point of the recent selloff, risk asset suffered half or more of the declines they experienced in 2008 and 2009. For example, many equity markets- in economies large and small- have endured declines of 30 percent or more at the trough. Credit spreads have jumped, especially for lower-rated firms. Signs of stress have also emerged in major short-term funding markets, including the global market for U.S dollars.

MARKET STRAIN

Volatility has spiked, in some cases to levels last seen during the global financial crisis, amid the uncertainty about the economic impact of the pandemic. With the spike in volatility, market liquidity has deteriorated significantly, including in markets traditionally seen as deep, as the U.S. Central banks have provided additional liquidity to the financial system, including through open market operations.

Second, a number of central banks have agreed to enhance the provision of U.S dollar liquidity through swap line arrangements. And finally central banks have reactivated programs used during the global financial crisis as well as launched a range of new broad-based programs, including to purchase riskier assets such as corporate bonds. By effectively stepping in as “buyers of last resort” in these markets and helping contain upward pressure on the cost of credit, credit banks are ensuring that households and firms continue to have access to credit at an affordable price.

-The United Nation

As the corona virus outbreak spreads to more countries, so does solidarity among people everywhere. For its part, the United Nations continues to help countries counter the outbreak and protect the most vulnerable. About 20 to 30 blocks south of United States Headquarters in New York lies a community of more than 30,000 residents, where the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak upended their life. All facilities, including playgrounds, are closed. Like many other communities, school closures, business shutdowns and social distancing have sent Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper village scrambling to counter the threat of the virus. Amid concerns of rising neighborhood tensions in frustrating circumstances, however, acts of kindness and solidarity are burgeoning.

For its part, the United Nations continued to help countries counter the outbreak. As the epicenter of the COVID- 19 outbreak shifts from East Asia to Europe, the United Nation is calling on regional group to unite efforts.

-OPEC

OPEC’s support, in the conjunction with the OPEC fund of international development, for expanding energy access is also important. Energy poverty and vulnerability typically go hand in hand. Closing the energy poverty gap will help vulnerable communities become more prosperous and more resilient. OPEC cooperation with other oil producing nations has contributed to stability and sustainability of energy supply, benefiting producers, consumers and the global economy. The declaration of corporation has proven to offer an effective, trusted and powerful instrument for voluntary collaboration. By extension, examining the risk of future epidemics and pandemics and working together to reduce their market impact.

Throughout its 60 years, OPEC has consistently demonstrated the benefits of dialogue, cooperation and information sharing to address common challenges. It is a model for the kind of international collaboration that will be needed to recover from COVID- 19, and of equal importance, to mitigate the human and the economic damage of future public health crises.

-The ILO

The ILO and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are joining forces to respond to the coronavirus in the western Balkans by advising national policy action to support workers and enterprises. The ILO office for central and Eastern Europe and the EBRD Gender and economic inclusion team have established a joint task force to assess the impact of the crisis on the region’s economies by examining the likely short- and medium-term employment and labor market effects. Initial results are expected by early may. The task force will include ILO and ERD experts as well as senior policy advisors from the region.

A survey on the impact on the covid-19 crisis on enterprises in the western Balkan is currently being rolled out and data on how to best assist the private sector will be available shortly.as a further step the force will develop policy responses taking into account the measures already announced by each government in the region with a focus on challenges insufficiently addressed. Governments and social partners may consider these policy options in order to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the world of labor. This task forces work will be complemented by direct support for initiating an open policy dialogue on the responses the western Balkan economies could develop to off-set the short-and medium-term employment and labor markets impact of the crisis. The knowledge products generated by the task force will serve governments and social partners to elaborate and assess policy responses aimed at supporting workers, households and enterprise.

-IAEA international atomic energy agency

All IAEA operations are continuing during the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. As access to the Vienna International Centre (VIC) is restricted, nearly all VIC-based personnel are working remotely as of Monday, 16 march to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Safeguards inspections worldwide are continuing but with some travel disruption. The IAEA’s remote working measures are in place until 30 April. Most meetings and non-critical travel through 1 June 2020 are postponed or deferred. The situation for other events is under review in light of the evolving situations. Precautionary measures have been taken in line with recommendations from Austrian authorities further extended measures instructing everyone in Austria to continue to stay at home and avoid contact with others beyond their immediate household. Additional measures have also been put in place including on the use of face masks, limits to outdoor activities and business operations.