

## Global solidarity to offset the repercussions of the recent pandemic

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The COVID-19 disease has been rapidly attacking societies at their core, claiming people's livelihood and even lives. The world has been suffering from adverse economic effects, increased poverty and fatalities as a consequence of this pandemic (Ciotti et al., 2020; Pradhan and Prabheesh, 2021). The potential long-term effects of this pandemic on the global economy, as well as individual countries, are utterly dire. COVID-19 is perhaps the greatest challenge that the world has faced together since the end of World War II. An immediate coordinated health response is deemed necessary in order to suppress the transmission of the virus and its variants to end the pandemic. The developed countries must assist the developing or less developed countries to strengthen the unity and solidarity which is required by all nations to eradicate this pandemic.

Currently, the entire world is fighting a war against a silent invisible enemy, the Coronavirus SARS-CoV2 that has caused the recent COVID-19 pandemic. It does not respect any national boundaries. Quite a few attempts have been made rapidly to develop vaccines to combat the spread of this highly infectious and deadly virus but there is still a long way to go. A global approach to vaccine distribution is necessary to return to a level of "normality" because no country can be safe until all countries are safe (Skegg et al., 2021).

Given the highly contagious nature of the disease, policymakers all over the world have been emphasizing the urgent need to flatten the curve of its spread to prevent healthcare systems from being overwhelmed by the surge in numbers of patients requiring critical care at any given point in time. The cases of USA, Italy, China, Spain and Iran during the first wave show how rapidly the situation may go out of control unless adequate advanced steps are taken to counter it.

In addition to the enormous human suffering, this pandemic has created an economic crisis (Susskind and Vines, 2020). Ironically, the more successful the isolation measures to contain the spread of the disease, the bigger will be the economic burden. The economic costs arise from both the demand and supply sides. As national and international supply chains get disrupted, production and employment decline. The corresponding fall in income generates a shock in demand in the form of a drastic fall in current expenditure. However, this was perhaps mitigated to a certain extent in the initial weeks to some extent since there was some additional panic buying of essential consumer products and medical supplies to stock up for anticipated future shortages.

It is essential to bring about a higher degree of collaboration at the national and international levels (Pradhan and Prabheesh, 2021). In April, 2020, the UN General Assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution, co-sponsored by 188 nations on COVID-19, demanding intensified international cooperation and harmony to defeat the pandemic (Assembly, 2020) The resolution entitled "Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019" was the first such document adopted by the world organization. It called for containing, mitigating and defeating the pandemic by exchanging information, scientific knowledge and best practices by applying the guidelines recommended by the World Health Organization. Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral resolution, the United Nations Organization (UNO) reaffirms its commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation as a global response to this pandemic. The UNO also stresses the need for full respect for human rights and that there should not be any place left for any form of discrimination, racism and xenophobia in response to the pandemic.

The world is undergoing a global health crisis which is perhaps the greatest challenge being faced by the UNO since its inception seven decades ago. It has been reported by the International Labour Organization (ILO) that workers around the world probably lost a few trillion US dollars in income during this pandemic. Above all, this is a human crisis that calls for solidarity. Our human family is stressed and the social fabric is being torn. There has been an improvement in the situation but people are still suffering, scared and sick. This is a moment that demands decisive, innovative and coordinated action from the world's leading economies.

There are three critical areas for action, namely, tackling the health emergency, focusing on the social impact and recovery of the economic scenario. Global actions must include regional mobilization which must examine monetary coordination, fiscal and social measures and engagement with the private financial sectors to support businesses and address structural changes. Social cohesion and provision of fiscal stimulus for the most vulnerable sections along with support to small scale enterprises, education and decent work should be prioritized by national solidarity. Educators are highly stressing on the policy of global solidarity which the contemporary world is devoid of.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the fragility of the global system. It has presented major challenges to global stability. One major challenge is whether the wealthy or indeed, all those with stable incomes or cushions in savings embrace measures to support the economically insecure people. Another challenge is whether people in rich countries will accept resource transfers to poor countries. Only if the above challenges are addressed in the affirmative, the world would be able to minimize the fallout of the pandemic that has somewhat crippled the global economy. COVID-19 has infected the likes of the Prime Minister and Crown Prince of the UK, professional athletes and multiple celebrities, showing that it has no regard for whether a person is rich or not. In the US, many measures such as expanded sickness benefits were provided to help the lower-income groups. In spite of measures being taken, actions yet remain far from sufficient to protect the economically vulnerable sections of nations.

The present pandemic has shown to the world that the present circumstances are still not devoid of global competition and silent wars. People were relaxed after the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991 that the world would be henceforth free from all sorts of humongous tensions but it is now proved wrong. The world still suffers from economic as well as ideological tensions, as is evident from the cause of the devastating pandemic. If all the countries can actually unite to form a superpower, then nothing would be impossible to defeat.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been met by unequal responses in different nations and led to dissimilar impacts (Skegg et al., 2021), thus calling for global solidarity. Solidarity with developing countries is thus a matter of both morality and long-term vision. Failure to pass this solidarity test would leave deep psychological wounds in the developing and less developed countries, paving the way for new crises and manners of extremism from pandemics to conflicts that would threaten everyone alike. The world is about to find out whether decades of economic and financial globalization can lead to a deeper understanding of the ties – social, moral and personal, that bind all people together. Only by recognizing and strengthening these ties, we can replace our fragile and conflict-ridden system, built on the surface of hyper-efficiency and short-term gain, with more sustainable arrangements based on economic, generational and international solidarity.

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