



BACKGROUND

EXAMINE THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19



ECOSOC
United Nations

A LETTER FROM YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIR...

Dear delegates,

We are thrilled to count on your participation in the 7th edition of Model United Nations Instituto Cultural Tampico. Whether this is your first committee or your third, we sincerely hope that you get as much experience as the Model UN can offer for your academic record or simply to have invaluable diplomatic experience.

As all of you are aware, 2020 has brought us a lot of events that, currently, are having a huge impact in diverse aspects of our everyday life: whether it is from an economic, social, or health standpoint, we were and still are all affected by this situation in direct, or indirect ways.

This is the reason why the ECOSOC's committee chair has decided to inaugurate the first edition this committee will take part in MUNICT with the following topic: The global, economic, and social impact of COVID-19

The world is in crisis and it is your job as delegates to coordinate efforts while upbringing ethical diplomacy as you shape a new, post-COVID-19 world. As Mark Twain once said:

“The secret to getting ahead is getting started”.

Delegates, let MUNICT's 7th edition be your canvas, and paint the world you wish we all lived in.

Best regards,
ECOSOC's committee chair

President: Enrique Paniagua Henriquez Luz

Moderator: Ximena Orta Ortegon

Secretary: Diego Ortega Del Angel

INDEX

A LETTER FROM YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIR	1
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL'S HISTORY	4
INTRODUCTION	5
IMPACT	5
<i>UNITED THE STATES OF AMERICA</i>	7
<i>PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA</i>	8
<i>ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT</i>	9
<i>FRENCH REPUBLIC</i>	9
<i>RUSSIAN FEDERATION</i>	10
<i>KINGDOM OF SPAIN</i>	10
<i>REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR</i>	11
<i>FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY</i>	11
<i>COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA</i>	12
<i>JAPAN</i>	12
<i>FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA</i>	13
<i>REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO</i>	13
<i>SAUDI ARABIA</i>	14
<i>ARGENTINE REPUBLIC</i>	14
<i>UNITED MEXICAN STATES</i>	15
<i>UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND</i>	16
<i>REPUBLIC OF INDIA</i>	17
<i>FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL</i>	17
<i>DOMINION OF CANADA</i>	18
<i>SWISS CONFEDERATION</i>	19
BIBLIOGRAPHY	21
<i>ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL</i>	3

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL'S HISTORY

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), responsible for the direction and coordination of the economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural activities carried out by the UN.

ECOSOC was established by the UN Charter (1945), which was amended in 1965 and 1974 to increase the number of members from 18 to 54. ECOSOC membership is based on geographic representation: 14 seats are allocated to Africa, 11 to Asia, 6 to eastern Europe, 10 to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 13 to western Europe and other areas. Members are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly. Four of the five permanent members of the Security Council have been continuously reelected because they provide funding for most of ECOSOC's budget, which is the largest of any UN subsidiary body.

The council was designed to be the UN's main venue for the discussion of international economic and social issues. ECOSOC conducts studies; formulates resolutions, recommendations, and conventions for consideration by the General Assembly; and coordinates the activities of various UN organizations. Most of ECOSOC's work is performed in functional commissions on topics such as human rights, narcotics, population, social development, statistics, the status of women, and science and technology; the council also oversees regional commissions for Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Western Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

The UN charter allows ECOSOC to grant consultative status to non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Beginning in the mid-1990s, measures were taken to increase the participation of such NGOs, and by the early 21st century more than 2,500 NGOs had been granted consultative status.

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, is an ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

On 31 December 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) received reports of a cluster of viral pneumonia cases of unknown cause in Wuhan, Hubei, and an investigation was launched at the start of January 2020. On 30 January, the WHO declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)—7,818 cases confirmed globally, affecting 19 countries in five WHO regions.

The pandemic has caused the global social and economic disruption, including the largest global recession since the Great Depression. Up to 100 million people have fallen into extreme poverty and global famines are affecting 265 million people. It has led to the postponement or cancellation of sporting, religious, political, and cultural events, widespread supply shortages exacerbated by panic buying, and decreased emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases.

Misinformation about the virus has circulated through social media and mass media. There have been incidents of xenophobia and discrimination against Chinese people and against those perceived as being Chinese or as being from areas with high infection rates.

IMPACT

- **Economics**

The outbreak is a major destabilizing threat to the global economy. Global stock markets fell on 24 February due to a significant rise in the number of COVID-19 cases outside China. On 27 February, due to mounting worries about the coronavirus outbreak, U.S. stock indexes posted their sharpest falls since 2008, with the Dow falling 1,191 points (the largest one-day drop since the financial crisis of 2007–08).

Tourism is one of the worst affected sectors due to travel bans, closing of public places including travel attractions, and advice of governments against travel. Numerous airlines have canceled flights due to lower demand. **The retail sector** has been impacted globally, with reductions in store hours or temporary

closures. Visits to retailers in Europe and Latin America declined by 40 percent. North America and Middle East retailers saw a 50–60 percent drop.

According to the World Bank, up to 100 million more people globally could fall into **extreme poverty** due to the shutdowns.

- **Healthcare and Health Issues**

The pandemic has had many impacts on global health beyond those caused by the COVID-19 disease itself. It has led to a reduction in hospital visits for other reasons. There have been 38 percent fewer hospital visits for heart attack symptoms in the United States and 40 percent fewer in Spain.

The pandemic has also negatively impacted mental health globally, including increased loneliness resulting from social distancing.

COVID-19 is disproportionately affecting the poor, minorities, and a broad range of vulnerable populations, due to its inequitable spread in areas of dense population and limited mitigation capacity due to the high prevalence of chronic conditions or poor access to high-quality public health and medical care. Moreover, the collateral effects of the pandemic due to the global economic downturn, and social isolation and movement restriction measures, are unequally affecting those in the lowest power strata of societies.

- **Environment and climate**

The outbreak has provided cover for illegal activities such as deforestation of the Amazon rainforest and poaching in Africa, hindered environmental diplomacy efforts, and created economic fallout that some predict will slow investment in green energy technologies.

- **Xenophobia and racism**

Since the start of the outbreak, heightened prejudice, xenophobia, and racism have been documented around the world toward people of Chinese and East Asian descent. Reports from February (when most cases were confined to China) documented racist sentiments expressed in groups worldwide about Chinese people deserving the virus. Chinese people and other Asians in the United Kingdom and the United States have reported increasing levels of racist abuse and assaults. U.S. President Donald Trump has been criticized for referring to the coronavirus as the "Chinese Virus" and "Kung Flu", which critics say is racist and anti-Chinese.

- **Misinformation**

The pandemic has resulted in misinformation and conspiracy theories about the scale of the pandemic and the origin, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the disease. False information, including intentional disinformation, has been spread through social media, text messaging, and mass media, including the tabloid media, conservative media, and state media of countries such as China, Russia, Iran, and Turkmenistan. It has also been reportedly spread by covert operations backed by states such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, and China to generate panic and sow distrust in other countries. In some countries, such as India, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia, journalists have been arrested for allegedly spreading fake news about the pandemic.

COUNTRIES INVOLVED

- **United States of America**

The initial U.S response to the pandemic was otherwise slow, in terms of preparing the healthcare system. stopping any form of travel and virus testing. As autumn approaches and people move indoors, where the virus is more likely to spread, concerns are rising of a resurgence in the U.S. akin to what is already occurring in some parts of Europe. And if given the opportunity, the coronavirus could surge in new environments wherever community transmission is still happening, as it did in July, when the nation recorded 75,000 cases in a single day.

Several schools and universities that opened in areas with abundant COVID-19 transmission quickly spawned outbreaks that forced officials back to remote learning practices. This whiplash is unsurprising, given the virus continues to spread uncontrollably in approximately 20 states.

Some local responses to the outbreak include prohibitions and cancellation of large-scale mass gatherings, such as festivals and sporting events, stay at home orders and the closure of schools.

The U.S. economy suffered its biggest blow since the Great Depression in the second quarter as the COVID-19 pandemic shattered consumer and business spending, and a nascent recovery is under threat from a resurgence in new cases of coronavirus.

Gross domestic product collapsed at a 32.9% annualized rate last quarter, the deepest decline in output since the government started keeping records in 1947. The drop in GDP was more than triple the previous all-time decline of 10% in the second quarter of 1958. The economy contracted at a 5.0% pace in the first quarter. It fell into recession in February.

In terms of discrimination, about four-in-ten U.S. adults say it has become more common for people to express racist views toward Asians since the pandemic began.

Black and Asian Americans are also more likely than their white and Hispanic counterparts to say they have been subject to slurs or jokes because of their race or ethnicity, but Asian adults are the most likely to say this has happened to them since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak. About three-in-ten Asian adults (31%) say they have been subject to slurs or jokes because of their race or ethnicity since the outbreak began, compared with 21% of Black adults, 15% of Hispanic adults and 8% of white adults. This aligns with some reports of incidents of discrimination against Asian Americans since the virus outbreak first emerged in China and then started spreading in the United States.

● **People's Republic of China**

The COVID-19 pandemic originated with a cluster of mysterious, suspected pneumonia cases in the city of Wuhan, the capital of Hubei, China. A Wuhan hospital notified the local center for disease control and prevention (CDC) and health commissions on 27 December 2019. Public and media criticism has labeled responses by the Wuhan and Hubei authorities as delayed and as failing to contain the outbreak in its early stage.

China's economic growth is expected to slow by up to 1.1 percentage in the first half of 2020 as economic activity is negatively affected by the new coronavirus outbreak, according to a Morgan Stanley study cited by Reuters. But, on 1 February 2020, the People's Bank of China said that the impact of the epidemic on China's economy was temporary and the fundamentals of China's long-term positive and high-quality growth remained unchanged.

In January and February 2020, during the height of the epidemic in Wuhan, about 5 million people in China lost their jobs. Many of China's nearly 300 million rural migrant workers have been stranded at home in inland provinces or trapped in Hubei province.

● Arab Republic of Egypt

Egypt's health ministry announced the first case in the country at Cairo International Airport involving a Chinese national on 14 February. Egyptian authorities had notified the World Health Organization (WHO) and the patient had been placed in quarantine isolation in hospital. Preventive measures were subsequently taken to monitor those who came into contact with the person where the others tested negative.

On 22 July 2020, a report, based on the letters covertly obtained from prisons and interviews with inmates, stated that coronavirus has infected multiple people inside several Egyptian prisons. Many detainees died, as they were not tested or received adequate medical treatment after experiencing suspected virus symptoms. Human rights groups also stated that tens of thousands of people in Egypt were crammed into overcrowded and unsanitary prisons.

Foreign media outlets have reported that certain individuals have been arrested for allegedly spreading false information about the coronavirus pandemic.

● French Republic

The virus was confirmed to have reached France on 24 January 2020, when the first COVID-19 case in both Europe and France was identified in Bordeaux. On March 12th, French President Emmanuel Macron announced on public television that all schools and all universities would close from Monday March 16th until further notice. The next day, Prime Minister Édouard Philippe banned gatherings of more than 100 people, not including public transport. The following day, the prime minister ordered the closure of all non-essential public places, including restaurants, cafés, cinemas, and nightclubs, effective from midnight.

President Macron announced that companies could postpone the payment of social security contributions and taxes due in March without justification, formalities, or penalties. An "exceptional and massive" mechanism of state-funded furloughing (partial lay-offs) was envisaged. Employees were encouraged to practice teleworking where possible. During the second half of March, 4 million French workers applied for temporary unemployment benefits. As of April 2020, approximately 8.6 million employees in France were furloughed. The total cost of the operation for the three months from March amounts to €24 billion.

● Russian Federation

The government of Russia has initially responded to the pandemic with preventive measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019, which involved imposing quarantines, carrying raids on potential virus carriers, and using facial recognition to impose quarantine measures. On March 28th, Chechen authorities urged the population of the republic to stay at their places of permanent residence, and banned entry to Grozny for anyone except emergency services, food supplies, government officials, police, and journalists.

On April 1st, President Putin signed legislation imposing severe punishments for those convicted of spreading false information about the coronavirus and breaking quarantine rules.

President Putin, in a televised address, announced additional economic and social support measures as a result of the pandemic's impact. He said that the extra revenue of around 60 billion rubles would go towards helping children with severe or rare diseases. He also announced other measures including increased benefits to families where both parents have lost their job and a one-off payment to families in July of 10,000 rubles for each child they have aged under 16.

On August 1st, the Minister of Health of Russia Mikhail Murashko reported that clinical trials of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus vaccine, developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, have been officially completed. He expressed the hope that the vaccine will be suitable for children, but according to Russian law, after the completion of the third phase of testing, the drug will be allowed to be tested on minors.

● Kingdom of Spain

On March 12th, the Catalan regional government quarantined four Catalan municipalities—Igualada, Vilanova del Camí, Santa Margarida de Montbui, and Odena—following a cluster of cases being reported at Igualada Hospital; the measure affected 70,000 people and was scheduled to last 14 days.

Many nonessential activities are forbidden, including large gatherings, restaurants, museums, and the like. However, citizens are still permitted to travel to work and buy essential items, and religious services are allowed under certain conditions.[179] The delay in implementing the lockdown meant some people in Madrid left for the regions, bringing the virus with them.

From 17 March to 14 April, the death rate in Spain was 68% higher than usual and 21,882 excess deaths occurred, with the vast majority of excess mortality observed among those older than 74 years. The peak of excess deaths occurred during the week of March 27th to April 3rd and was five times larger than the flu season of 2019

Low-income neighborhoods in Barcelona have seven times the rate of infection of more affluent neighborhoods. Part of the reason is that essential workers, who have kept going to work despite the epidemic, are likely to work in low-skill jobs such as supermarkets or elder care. Also, many care workers are immigrants, who lack access to unemployment benefits and live in some of the lowest category housing.

The Spanish cabinet is supposed to approve 3 to 3.5 billion dollars grants to help the poorest during the pandemic so that they can weather the economic fallout. More than 1 million families will benefit from the scheme.

● **Republic of Ecuador**

The government is paying informal workers \$60 per month to stay at home. An estimated 500,000 Venezuelan migrants in Ecuador are especially vulnerable because they do not have access to the stimulus payments. The country was already in economic difficulties before the pandemic, but the coronavirus outbreak and fall in oil prices during the pandemic had led to severe economic problems in the country. Ecuador was unable to pay its foreign debt.

● **Federal Republic of Germany**

On 22 January 2020, the German government considered the spread of COVID-19 as a "very low health risk" for Germans and the virus in general as "far less dangerous" than SARS. New travel advisories would not be necessary.

Germany officially entered a recession given that its economy contracted 2.2% during the first quarter of 2020. As of 1 April, almost half a million companies in Germany had sent their workers on a government-subsidized short-time working scheme known as Kurzarbeit. The German short-time work compensation scheme is similar to schemes in France and Britain.

● Commonwealth of Australia

On 1 February 2020, Australia banned the entry of foreign nationals from mainland China and ordered its own returning citizens from China to self-quarantine for 14 days. On 3 March, the Reserve Bank of Australia became the first central bank to cut interest rates in response to the outbreak. Official interest rates were cut by 0.25% to a record low of 0.5%.

Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders have poorer health outcomes and a lower life expectancy than the non-Indigenous Australian population, particularly those living in remote areas, and overcrowded housing and many living in very remote communities, make them one of the communities most vulnerable to the virus.

● Japan

The Japanese government has adopted various measures to prevent and mitigate the outbreak. On 30 January, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe established the Japan anti-coronavirus national task force to oversee the government's response to the pandemic.

Japan's death rate per capita from coronavirus is one of the lowest in the developed world. Factors suggested explaining this includes the government response, a milder strain of the virus, cultural habits such as bowing etiquette and wearing face masks, hand washing with sanitizing equipment, a protective genetic trait, and a relative immunity conferred by the mandatory BCG tuberculosis vaccine.

On 26 January, Japanese people donated a batch of face masks to Wuhan. According to the Liberty Times of Taiwan, these were actually purchased by China, but Japanese media and the Japanese Consulate General in Chongqing stated that it was a donation.

Due to prejudice and ignorance, social harassment is expanding in relation to infectious diseases. Because of their worries about being contracted, the number of cases where medical personnel's family commuting is restricted, or people around the infected person are disturbed has increased. In addition, there are increasing cases where small business owners, who are inevitably operating, are forced to take self-sufficiency by neighbors who feel anxious and deprived.

● **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

Even before the pandemic struck, Ethiopia was struggling with a large-scale desert locust invasion affecting close to 1 million people, scant rain disrupting the agricultural sector, high levels of food insecurity, and outbreaks of cholera, measles, and yellow fever—straining a health service whose readiness to deliver routine health services was rated in 2018 at just 55 percent of what's needed. Traditional practices and limited public awareness, compounded by poverty, could further worsen the trajectory of the pandemic significantly.

The Ministry of Health data shows that the number of confirmed cases has climbed from 365 last week to 655 on May, 25, 2020. This shows an average daily growth rate of 9.4 percent and a weekly growth rate of about 80 percent.

People are guided and advised to keep their proximity at a reasonable distance, consistently wash their hands and wear masks. The government is also supporting hospitals and emergency rooms, establishing make-shift field clinics at schools and other compounds, buying protective gear and essential medical equipment or getting them through aid, and carrying out public awareness campaigns about simple measures like hand washing. Companies are operating with strategic essential staff. Borders are officially closed.

“Social unrest, triggered by long standing issues that could now be aired in a more open civic and political environment, had led to conflict, the loss of lives and property and, at last count, 1.7 million internally displaced persons,” the assessment, which will inform policies and programs aimed at helping Ethiopia recover, finds. The country also comprises 26 refugee camps and tens of thousands of Eritreans refugees, whose densely populated living conditions make containing COVID-19 even more difficult.

● **Republic of the Congo**

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, a national lockdown was instituted in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the 31st of March 2020 and has yet to be fully lifted. On the first of June the Ministry of Health of the DRC officially declared the eleventh Ebola outbreak in the country. The DRC has also seen over 6000 deaths attributed to measles. This means that the DRC is now fighting the spread of three major health outbreaks – Ebola, Measles and Covid-19 simultaneously.

The situation in many parts of the DRC is tense, with a number of lock down extensions and violent enforcement of lockdown measures, general insecurity and economic stress. In many areas there are also shortages of water, soap and personal protective equipment.

Travel bans and social distancing regulations have stopped their grassroots community work in its tracks with no concrete date on which they will be able to start again. Organisations were not prepared for this rapid shift to remote working and as a result did not have the resources to provide every member with the necessary equipment like power banks, modems and laptops. Unstable electricity and wifi in the region makes remote working even more challenging.

● **Saudi Arabia**

Covid-19 cases in Saudi Arabia of as 000,127 surpassed 127,000 as of June 14, with 972 deaths - resulting in one of the lowest case-fatality rates in the world.

Saudi Arabia is dealing with two crises at once. Even before the corona-related economic downturn, the nation was locked in an oil price war with Russia – probably at the worst possible time as worldwide lockdowns led to a slump in global oil consumption.

Then there are Saudi Arabia's own attempts to maintain a flat corona curve at home. To date, lockdowns have only been imposed on a local level. But now, as the end of Ramadan is marked with the short Feast of the Sacrifice, the government has announced a national lockdown.

Financial limits are also now likely to be imposed on Bin Salman's plans to re-order the region as a regional power. The war in neighbouring Yemen, which he began five years ago, is straining the budget. The opponents of the Saudi military coalition in Yemen, the Houthi rebels, say this war is costing Saudi Arabia 60 billion every year.

● **Argentine Republic**

Social distancing measures escalated after mid-March. On March 12th president Alberto Fernández announced decree 260/2020 declaring a public health emergency. Those who did not comply with this self-quarantine could be denounced and criminal law (according to articles 205 and 239 of the

Penal Code on infectious disease propagation) would be enacted. The decree also established that the government could implement price caps on key inputs such as hand gels and face masks and could take measures to prevent their shortage.

The economic crisis driven by the COVID-19 pandemic found Argentina in an already fragile economic and social situation. When the first case of COVID-19 in Argentina was confirmed on March 3, 2020, the Fernández administration was beginning its fourth month in office and was in the middle of a sovereign debt renegotiation. The economy had not rebounded after two years of recession, inflation was above 50% and poverty affected 35.5% of the population.

Social distancing measures, aiming to flatten the COVID-19 outbreak curve, escalated throughout March, until the government finally announced a strict mandatory shutdown on March 19. Initially it was to last until March 31. However, it was successively extended until May 10, with minor relaxations at the industry level as well as in regions with low population density or with a low number of cases. By April 25, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had climbed to 3,780, with 187 deaths.

Argentina will be hit hard by the expected slump in foreign trade as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Most of its exports are agricultural commodities, so it has no ability to diversify exports in the short term. 63.8% of Argentina's exports are concentrated in agricultural commodities and manufactured products of agricultural origin, leaving the country vulnerable to a drop in their prices, particularly corn and soya.

On March 15, the government banned the arrival of non-resident foreigners. On March 17, it announced the suspension of domestic flights and long-distance trains and buses, as well as hotels' shutdown. These measures were lately extended until May 10. On April 26, the government announced that airlines were not able to issue new tickets until September 1, however this measure will be reviewed every two weeks according to the outbreak's evolution.

- **United Mexican States**

Banco de Mexico estimates that the economy could contract by more than 8 percent in 2020, which will also exert significant pressure on public finances

Manufacturing production is slowing already. The car manufacturing sector, which contributes around 4% of Mexico's GDP, had to suspend or slow down production. Its outlook is not encouraging, since there will be a sharp drop in car sales in Mexico (around 16%) and the U.S. (around 15%) in 2020.

The government has not modified its spending priorities (for example, the infrastructure projects like the Dos Bocas Refinery, the Maya Train, and the Santa Lucia Airport have not been canceled or postponed), nor have they been willing to extend a lifeline to households or businesses. While the government provided a modest recovery package for some of the country's poorest, it has not provided relief to many Mexicans who have had to shut down their livelihoods because of the pandemic.

Estimates suggest the public health crisis will result in the loss of between 1 million and three million jobs that won't be recovered in the short term; moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic could drive 10 million into extreme poverty.

● **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

The first case of COVID-19 in the UK was on January 31 – that is almost two months before the imposition of the lockdown on March 23. The UK is also well connected with other countries and this possibly helped to gear up infections via imports and travel in and out of the country before lockdown was imposed.

England saw a 27 per cent increase in the number of people testing positive for coronavirus in the week ending 12 August compared to the previous week, according to the Department of Health and Social Care. Its latest figures state that 6616 people tested positive for the virus, whilst the number of people tested for the virus went down by 2 per cent over the same time period.

Britain's economy contracted by 2.2% in the first three months of 2020 – its sharpest decline in more than 40 years – as the immediate impact from the Covid-19 pandemic provided an even more severe hit to output than first thought.

Broken down by sector, the ONS said the impact of the lockdown had been most severe in services, which make up 80% of the economy's output. The decline of 2.3% in the first quarter was 0.4 points bigger than first thought. Production output dropped by 1.5% – mainly as a result of factories being shut – while the closure of building sites led to a 1.7% drop in construction.

- **Republic of India**

India alertly implemented surveillance as early as January 17, even before the first cases were officially detected. This was followed by a series of travel advisories and restrictions, and efforts to repatriate and quarantine Indian nationals arriving from abroad. After a 14-hour “Janata Curfew” test run, India went into full lockdown on March 24; at the time, India had just 500 confirmed COVID-19 cases and fewer than 10 deaths.

Testing capacity has increased in recent weeks—over 1,000 laboratories with daily testing capacity of more than 300,000 samples—but testing rates are still low.

Based on recent studies, some economists have said that there is a job loss of 40 million people (MRD report) in the country, mostly in the unorganized sectors. Travel restrictions and quarantines affecting hundreds of millions of people have left Indian factories short of labour and parts, just-in-time supply chains and triggering sales warnings across technology, automotive, consumer goods, pharmaceutical and other industries.

The government’s crisis response has mitigated damage, with a fiscal stimulus of 20 trillion rupees, almost 10 percent of GDP. Also, the Reserve Bank of India enacted decisive expansionary monetary policy. Yet, banks accessed only 520 billion rupees out of the emergency guaranteed credit window of 3 trillion rupees.

- **Federative Republic of Brazil**

On 28 January 2020, Brazil's Ministry of Health announced that a suspected case of COVID-19 was being investigated in Belo Horizonte, involving a student that had recently returned from Wuhan, China. On 3 February, it was announced that the Brazilian government would assist in helping citizens in Wuhan return to the country.

On 21 March, researchers began to mobilize to increase the availability of testing in Brazil. The Federal University of Rio de Janeiro was attempting to

create a serology test, as opposed to the more common PCR test, to detect infections through a patient's blood samples.

On 17 March, Brazilian authorities partially closed their border with Venezuela. Health Minister Luiz Henrique Mandetta had urged closure of the border due to Venezuela's collapsing health system. Despite the global impact of COVID-19 and repeated warnings from health experts and organisations, President Bolsonaro has routinely downplayed its severity. He has described the threat of COVID-19 as being exaggerated, and as being a "fantasy" created by the media.

As of August 14, 2020, the gross domestic product (GDP) of Brazil was forecast to decrease by 5.52 percent during 2020, an improvement in comparison to the 6.1 percent decrease forecast a month earlier. This figure, which had remained stable at 2.3 percent during the first six weeks of the year, decreased for eighteen consecutive weeks, until June 12. The result has been linked with the impacts of COVID-19 in Brazil.

Having learned from previous crises, such as the 2007–08 Global Financial Crisis, and having adopted global regulatory standards such as Basel III, Brazil's banks are in a sound position, with comfortable capital buffers and liquidity cushions. Banking sector stress tests suggest that the financial sector should be able to weather this shock.

● **Dominion of Canada**

The federal government activated its Emergency Operations Centre on January 15. The federal government's pandemic response is based on two primary documents: the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Preparedness planning guidelines, which outlines risks and measures to address a viral disease, and the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Public Health Response Plan for Biological Events, which includes identifying, tracking, and ensuring rapid access to medical care.

On March 20, Trudeau stated that the National Research Council will work with small- and medium-sized companies on health research to fight the virus.

On March 14, Canada recommended against any international travel, and advised those returning from outside of Canada, except for essential workers (such as flight crew), to self-isolate for 14 days. The Quarantine Act was invoked by Hajdu on March 26, making self-isolation a legal mandate for travellers

(excluding essential workers) returning to the country, and also prohibiting those who are symptomatic from using public transit as transport to their place of self-isolation, and prohibiting self-isolation in settings where they may come in contact with those who are vulnerable (people with pre-existing conditions and the elderly).

At least one insurance carrier announced that it was cutting back on insurance coverage for Canadians abroad. On March 15, 2020, RSA Canada announced that trip cancellation, interruption, and emergency medical coverage was now limited to 10 days from the federal government's announcement on March 13, 2020, urging Canadians not to travel internationally.

Online shopping, on the other hand, is proving to be one of the pandemic's biggest successes. Online sales more than doubled in April and now make up almost 10 percent of everything sold in Canada — the biggest proportion on record.

The Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) was affected strongly by the 2020 stock market crash, with an overall 12 percent decline on March 12 of the S&P/TSX Composite Index, its biggest single-day decline since 1940, twice triggering market circuit breakers.

● **Swiss Confederation**

On 25 February 2020, Switzerland confirmed the first case of COVID-19, a 70-year-old man in the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino bordering Italy, who had previously visited Milan tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.

On 16 April, Switzerland announced that the country would ease restrictions in a three-step, gradual way. The first step began on 27 April, for those who work in close contact with others, but not in large numbers. Surgeons, dentists, day care workers, hairdressers, massage and beauty salons could be opened with safety procedures applied. DIY stores, garden centres, florists and food shops that also sell other goods could also be opened. The second step was to begin on 11 May, assuming implementation of the first step without problems, at which time other shops and schools could be opened. The third step would begin on 8 June with the easing of restrictions on vocational schools, universities, museums, zoos and libraries.

The Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) assumes that manufacturing output will fall by around 25% of total economic added value compared to 2019. If Switzerland moves into a V-shaped recession (a major downturn followed by a rapid recovery), SECO estimates that GDP will decline by 7% in 2020 and the rate of unemployment will rise to 4% (from 2.3% in 2019).

18% of self-employed individuals have had to close their business and 21% are still trading but have seen business drop to zero. A further 38% report a decrease in business. This means that the COVID-19 pandemic has so far had a negative economic impact on just over three-quarters (77%) of all self-employed individuals in Switzerland. However, 10% report an increase in business, enabling them to benefit from the crisis, while the remaining 21% say the crisis has not yet had any impact on their financial position.

Sectors in which a high proportion of the workforce works from home, only small numbers of employees have had their hours reduced to zero and been moved on to short-time work compensation payments or have actually lost their job. In other words, the better suited a sector is to home-working, the smaller the impact on the workforce.

\

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A Brief History | 75th Economic and Social Council. (2015). United Nations Economic and Social Council. <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/a-brief-history>

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2016). Economic and Social Council | UN. Encyclopaedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Economic-and-Social-Council>

Chen N, Zhou M, Dong X, Qu J, Gong F, Han Y, et al. (February 2020). "Epidemiological and clinical characteristics of 99 cases of 2019 novel coronavirus pneumonia in Wuhan, China: a descriptive study". *Lancet*. 395 (10223): 507–513.

Nussbaumer-Streit B, Mayr V, Dobrescu AI, Chapman A, Persad E, Klerings I, et al. (April 2020). "Quarantine alone or in combination with other public health measures to control COVID-19: a rapid review". *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*

McKibbin, Warwick; Roshen, Fernando. "The global macroeconomic impacts of COVID-19: Seven scenarios" (PDF). CAMA Working Paper. doi:10.2139/ssrn.3547729

Rivers C, Martin E, Watson C, Schoch-Spana M, Cicero A, Inglesby T (2020). "Resetting Our Response: Changes Needed in the US Approach to COVID-19". Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. and Benito, Marcelino (July 23, 2020).

Burton, Thomas M.; Armour, Stephanie; Wise, Lindsay (March 12, 2020). "U.S. Virus Testing System Is Failing, Fauci Tells Congress". *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved April 19, 2020.

"China Economic Update, December 2019 : Cyclical Risks and Structural Imperatives" (PDF). openknowledge.worldbank.org. World Bank. p. 21.

Egypt Coronavirus - Worldometer". www.worldometers.info. Retrieved 19 August 2020.

Coronavirus: More than 20 cases in Egypt despite government insistence there are only 2". *Middle East Monitor*. 2 March 2020. Archived from the original on 3 March 2020. Retrieved 4 March 2020.

Jacob, Etienne (24 January 2020). "Coronavirus: trois premiers cas confirmés en France". *Le Figaro* (in French).

"French transport strike now longest in 50 years". 2 January 2020. Retrieved 19 August 2020.
Coronavirus: la réforme des retraites suspendue annonce Macron 16 March 2020 *HuffPost*. Retrieved 12 April 2020

"Where Has Russia Sent Coronavirus Aid Around the World?". *The Moscow Times*.

Russia plans coronavirus vaccine clinical trials in two weeks: report". *Reuters*.
"Spain poised to tighten coronavirus lockdown after record daily toll". *www.msn.com*. Retrieved 2020-03-29.

Digital, Economía. "Madrid se queda sin terrazas por el coronavirus". *Economía Digital*. Retrieved 2020-08-17.

"Actualización de casos de coronavirus en Ecuador". *Ministerio de Salud Pública*. Retrieved 15 August 2020.

abrera, José María León; Kurmanaev, Anatoly (8 April 2020). "Ecuador Gives Glimpse Into Pandemic's Impact on Latin America". *The New York Times*.
.Minister Altmaier says coronavirus pandemic is sending economy into recession and that restrictions on the economy and social life should be eased gradually to allow the economy to recover in the second half of the year". *Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy*. 29 April 2020. Retrieved 19-08-2020.

Ankel, Sophia (24 May 2020). "Germany is at the forefront of a global movement of anti-vaxxers obsessed with Bill Gates and it could mean the coronavirus is never defeated". *Business Insider*. Retrieved 20 August 2020.
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development. "Home". *COVID-19*. Retrieved 1 June 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and remote communities". *Australian Government, Department of Health*. 29 March 2020. Archived from the original on 14 April 2020. Retrieved 18-08-2020

"Japan seeks to contain economic impact of virus, new measures come into effect". Reuters. 1 February 2020. Archived from the original on 1 February 2020.

.