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COLLEGE of INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
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China Agricultural University

# Development Cooperation post COVID-19: Calling for a New Type of Global Solidarity

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# Outline

- **Scenarios:** possible implications of COVID-19 on the current system of international cooperation and more specifically on international development cooperation
- **Mitigating collateral damage:** How to manage negative consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on international (development) cooperation?
- **Strengthening momentum:** How might the COVID-19 crisis create a momentum for more and better international cooperation? What can actors do to support this?
- **Development Cooperation post-COVID-19:** What would it be like?

## ◆ **Social-economic impacts estimates:**

- ILO: job and labor income loss (5 to 25 million jobs and \$860 billion to \$3.4 trillion in labor income will be eradicated);
- UNCTAD: 30-40% downward pressure on global FDI flows
- UNWTO: 20–30% decline in international arrivals.
- UNESCO: 1.5 billion students out of school
- Not setting GDP growth rate in China and G20 growth forecast is negative (-2.2) .

◆ **It is not just a health system crisis, but also a political and security challenge, no man is an island entire of itself** (no matter where you are from, which class you belong to, rich or poor, from physical to mental). We are all connected.

◆ The impact of COVID-19 is fundamental, not only change the way we live, the way communicate with each other , but also change our perception to see the world.



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# Scenarios (2)



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## ◆ Development cooperation without globalization?

- **The traditional ‘donor-recipient’ paradigm is fundamentally disrupted:** any country could be a donor or recipient and could be both at the same time.
- **The international institutions/norms were severely weakened:** travel restrictions, the moral base for cooperation is at risk.
- **Struggling between national interests and international cooperation:** medical goods hijacked, political exploitation of the pandemic by some politicians, social disorder, racial discrimination, etc. countries behave like teenagers.
- **Countermeasures might have unintended consequences without coordination:** Stimulus plan might go against climate change and social justice

- ◆ **Trust building and mutual learning enhancement:** China's success not lies in the rigid control but in the effective mobilization of social resources (one city, one province). But many people still see the issue only through the lens of ideological differences by politicizing everything. The details of the useful experiences were greatly ignored.
- ◆ **Innovate aid policy and ethics:** advocate win-win and mutual benefit principles to make aid more sustainable and accountable. Aid does not equal to free donation; Provide some moral space for providers cover the cost and make the aid sustainable. Without the forcing up of the price should be considered ethical (made aid work easier and practical during the critical moment).
- ◆ **A stronger and more capable 'world government' should be in place** to mobilize more resources direct the limited resources to the most vulnerable. IOs, particularly UN systems, should play more proactive roles in mobilizing resources and ensuring widest participation of different actors in fighting against the pandemic.

- ◆ **The threat of COVID-19 to human security is more tangible**, which makes it different from climate change. Almost no country is exempt.
- ◆ **All the countries are in urgent needs of resources/guidance to participate in development cooperation.** The poor countries needs to be **informed/heard/ protected** and the rich needs to be **directed/monitored/recognized** by both domestic and international community.
- ◆ **Countries like China and other developing countries call for a more just and reliable platform to coordinate the actions of DC:** China received aid from 62 countries and 7 IOs and provided aid to more than 100 countries and 4 IOs;
- ◆ **Humanitarian aid even between rivals** : UAE to Iran, US-Iran, China-US.....
- ◆ **Important role of non-state actors:** private sectors, philanthropic organization, volunteers, medical staff



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# Development Cooperation Post- COVID-19



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- ◆ **A new type of global solidarity: more equitable, just and with widest participation and stronger leadership of the UN.**
- ◆ **Challenges to consider**
  - COVID-19 coincides with the transition period: global system restructuring, global economic recession, divisive geopolitical hue, etc.
  - Two competing narratives: United or apart? Solidarity is the only choice.
  - Two competing claims: liberal and illiberal states to better manage extreme social distress. – too early and irrelevant, coexistence is beautiful.
  - Fake news and misinformation are everywhere. How to battle this?
- ◆ **“Never Waste a Good Crisis.”**
  - Winston Churchill



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**Thank you!**