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Europe has become a hotspot of the Corona virus in recent weeks. Especially Italy, Spain, and France are mostly affected by the pandemic. The virus has led to a closing of borders contradicting Europe's idea of free movement of people, goods, and services.

But despite all the shortcomings in dealing with the crisis, Europe is seeing new forms of solidarity. The European Union is supporting its members to overcome the economic downturn. Countries like Germany have taken Corona patients from Italy and France to support their neighbours in their fight against the pandemic.

The controversy over the introduction of new financial instruments ("Eurobonds") to overcome the economic downturn in many countries will become an important test case for the future integration of Europe.

Viruses do not care about borders. This makes it even more necessary for states to cooperate on the regional and global level in order to fight the common challenge.



Dr. Simbal Khan, UNDP

"As the world grapples with the first modern day pandemic, economic and political uncertainties prevail over the international order. At this juncture, the greatest error that geopolitical analysts can make is to believe that the crisis will be over in three to four months and the world will return to more familiar patterns. COVID-19 crisis is likely to have long term implications for globalization as we know it.

Globalization, already under threat from multiple sources especially US-China competition, climate change activists, growing resistance to migrants etc. is likely to come under greater strains as governments will focus on rebuilding national economies rather than focus on the management of the global economy and the international system."



Dr Salma Malik, QAU

"Pandemics are not a new occurrence for the world. If one traces the last 100 years, greater number of deaths have occurred due to SARs, MERs (different variants of Corona virus) or Ebola. More people are affected by contagions which are now considered common afflictions such as mumps, chicken pox or the common flu. Yet what make the new strain of the Corona virus more fearsome is its stealthy nature, and its rapid spread across the globe through its fast paced globalized citizens - who innocently and unknowingly carried the virus across oceans, afflicting many in the process; and the inability of the contemporary world despite its scientific prowess, to contain it. The world as we knew before has, since November 2019, been totally transformed by a microcosmic spore, which cannot be defeated by the entire world's weaponry and lethal arsenal. Measures undertaken against this pandemic thus far are, at best, adhoc, cautionary and preventive. Groping in the dark, some seek solace in faith, some in conspiracy theories and blame games, while others simply disregard this stealthy killer and either gain the distinction of super spreaders or become the anonymous patient 31.

Planet earth in its reboot mode is breathing a sigh of relief, as its reckless "children," are confined to their homes, irritable and rumbling but mostly healthy, the skies above are cleaner and clearer like never before. But there is always the day after. Tomorrow's world will be fundamentally different and more challenging. Not only a great global recession and a corresponding economic depression will set in, but every institution across the globe will be adversely affected. The rebound will depend on how well the countries equip and prepare themselves to face such non-traditional and uncommon challenges. The pandemic is a warning to prepare better for holistic challenges which would require a completely different set of diagnostics in all facets of life."



Taimur Shamil, PTV

"COVID-19 is a global challenge. One that is going to have a lasting impact on the people and governments around the world and the way they are going to lay out plans for governance and public policy. Pakistan, although a resilient nation, needs proactive approach and coordination at every level to cope up with the ongoing situation."