

Review of: "Global Governance and Sustainable Development: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I commend the author for the thoughtful piece that puts a spotlight on the effects of the coronavirus disease of 2019 (Covid-19) on *global governance and sustainable development*. The examples of how various regimes addressed the Covid-19 pandemic may help those regimes to better reflect on how they addressed the situation and plan for and better prepare for future pandemics and emergencies. Much of the actions/approaches that were taken by the various regimes may be out of uncertainty and the need for urgent control measures and strategies to overcome the pandemic (Foo, et al., 2022; Krittanawong, et al., 2022; Sachs, et al., 2022). This review suggests to the author some areas to consider for further improvement of the article, which are grouped into two aspects: content and editorial comments.

Content comments

The article could benefit further by adding a last section on challenges and opportunities moving forward post Covid-19. The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated inequalities and exposed some key governance issues that people in power need to consider, such as the role of social media in spreading misinformation (Barua, et al., 2020; Nelson, et al., 2020; Ferreira Caceres, et al., 2022). However, as the global community builds back from the effects of Covid-19, some challenges have emerged, including wars and conflicts – the conflict in Sudan, the Gaza war, and the Russia-Ukraine war, which threaten global solidarity, a driver of how the world faces big challenges such as the Covid-19 (Atuire & Hassoun, 2023, Frenk, et al., 2014). The challenge of the role social media can play in spreading misinformation has been recently noted in the United Kingdom (UK), in which it led to riots that threatened the civilization of the UK (Timothy, 2024).

Amid the challenges, there are opportunities in which global governance and sustainable development can be harnessed to address the challenges and build a better future and ensure that future generations live sustainable and peaceful lives.

The opportunities include:

- The growing attention of multilateral banks to engage in financing interventions that address climate change effects (United Nations climate change, 2023). This will help countries to access resources to finance various interventions to address effects of climate change and engage their populations to use clean energy.
- The ongoing negotiations on the pandemic agreement (Cullinan, 2024).
- The advancement of technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), (Vinuesa, et al., 2020; United Nations, 2024). However, for AI to yield the intended results, strong regulatory systems must be in place (Walter, 2024; Pencina, et al., 2024; Vinuesa, et al., 2020).

Editorial comments

Introduction

- a. First line on page 1/9 (*According to data by the World Health Organization on infections and deaths of Covid-19 since the start of the pandemic on*):
 - i. Insert the abbreviation WHO in brackets after Organization; and
 - ii. Write Covid-19 in its full name and the abbreviation in brackets as follows: Coronavirus disease of 2019 (Covid-19)
- b. Second line on page 2/9 (*followed a different managing to face the new infection. b) The new pandemic gave path to new forms of discrimination*): I suggest replacing managing with management approach

Democratic versus authoritarian regimes

- a. First paragraph page 2/9 – fifth line: write EU in its long form and the abbreviation in brackets as follows: European Union (EU)
- b. First paragraph page 2/9 – last line (*more than 90% for closings schools and people contact restrictions in Germany (Habermann and Zeich, 2022).*): edit “closings” to be closing

The search for a scapegoat

- a. Paragraph three on page 4/9: write the reference (HRW, 2020) in its long form and the abbreviation after a dash as follows: (Human Rights Watch - HRW, 2020),

Pandemic and social inequalities

- a. Its first paragraph on page 4/9 – fifth line: write the reference (WIL, 2022:46) its long form and the abbreviation after a dash as follows (World Inequality Lab – WIL, 2022:46)
- b. First paragraph on page 5/9 – third line (*developed ones. For instance, a 2013 European Commission report noted that within the European Union countries: "For*):
 - i. Insert abbreviation EC for the European Commission after Commission; and
 - ii. Replace European Union with its abbreviation EU.
- c. Second paragraph on page 5/9:
 - i. Third line (*infected by the new virus compared to the white population: based on data from the US Center for Disease Control and*): write US in long form United States
 - ii. Line 13 (*were 4,000 UCUs per one million population (WIL, 2022). Similar differences can be noted regarding vaccines. In mid-*): Edit UCUs to be ICUs

Reflecting on the current capitalistic model

- a. First paragraph on page 6/9 – third and fourth lines (*However, from a critical perspective, Adam Smith's book published in 1776, at the dawn of the industrial revolution, did not of course take into consideration the environmental consequences of capitalism.*): I suggest to the authors to add the reference (Smith, 1776) and add it to the reference list
- b. Second paragraph on page 6/9 – eleventh line (*from land rents and capital returns as unproductive, the UN System of National Accounts classifies these profits as*): write UN in its long form and the abbreviation in brackets – United Nations (UN)
- c. Third paragraph on page 6/9 – sixth line (*consumer goods, transportation, services and CO2 production*) which exceeds the amount of natural resources (land.): write CO2 in its long form and the abbreviation in brackets as follows: Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
- d. Fourth paragraph on page 6/9:
 - I. Fourth line - write HIV in its long form and the abbreviation in brackets as follows Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV); and
 - II. Fifth line – write SARS in its long form and the abbreviation in brackets as follows: severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

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