

Pakistan OBSERVER

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Govt, civil society express resolve against HIV, AIDS

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD—Government is determined to build strong partnership with civil society organisations to combat HIV and AIDS in Pakistan. This was stated by Dr Abdul Majeed Rajput, Director General Health while addressing a policy dialogue under the theme of "Strengthening Public Private Partnership for HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care" which was organised by Pakistan National AIDS Consortium. President Pakistan National AIDS Consortium Raja Khalid Mehmood while addressing to the dialogue

said that PNAC has initiated the dialogue process at national level in consultation with Government. Effect of this policy will definitely trickle down at provincial level, he also emphasised that Pakistan National AIDS Consortium will continue to play its role in initiating policy dialogues on various issues related with HIV and AIDS.

While delivering the key note address, Dr. A.R. Kemal renowned Economist of Pakistan discussed the social and economical aspects of the spread of epidemic. While quoting examples from other countries, he said that the worst impact of HIV and

AIDS is always on economics of the country and that is why it should be dealt with as developmental issue.

Stake holders from various international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations participated in the dialogue and developed recommendation for strengthening the partnership between public and private sector. It was mutually agreed that HIV and AIDS is a serious threat that can neither be answered by government or by civil society organisations working in isolation. It requires constant and timely efforts by public and private sector.