**Pakistan Development Alliance termed proposed legislation against NGOs unnecessary, untimely and malafide**

The representatives of different national alliances and networks gathered here at PDA’s national Secretariat to discuss the implications of new ngo

Briefing session , on the Senate Bill on Foreign Contribution and Aid by Non-Governmental Organizations ( NGOs) convened by PDA ( Pakistan Development Alliance ) representative Mr. Muhammad Zia-ur-Rehman. He shared CSOs has realized that govt. is willing to listen NGOs upon this new legislation. However, representatives of different alliances/networks sort for more time for dialogue so as all stakeholders have better understanding about legislation.

In Chapter 1 section 2(b) definitions; mentions about donations made in currency or kind for purposes as specified in the schedule. In kind donations are usually received in an emergency where speed is of the essence and prior approval for this kind of donation cannot be obtained. This may be modified. As far as schedule is concerned social safety nets need to be included. It is not very clear why advocacy and communication NGOs for example (Human Rights, women rights, environment etc ) are excluded from the schedule . It appears they are being given preferential treatment vis a vis social sectors and poverty alleviation NGOs, commented Mr. Babar Javed representative from PCP.

 Furthermore, Mr. Irfan Mufti from SAP PK a national organization ,declared we , the public interest organizations , have serious concerns on the intent , rationale and methods suggested in this policy .He is also apprehensive on the nature of draft law as it violates basic freedom of association granted under Article 17 of the constitution of Pakistan . The proposed law is unreasonably intrusive (Ref 24-B) and unnecessarily probes into functioning of NGOs. It unduly prescribes control rather than regulation and goes to the extent of allowing the government to regulate internal matters of NGOs receiving foreign contribution.

Neva Khan ( CD Voluntarily services organization ) revealed the fact making NGOs answerable to the federal authority violates the principles of provincial autonomy and the devolution scheme hence encouraged NGOs to stand together and raise voice .

Abdul Wadood ( CEO Seher foundation ) reiterated NGO is a softer target and such bills/polices have strong implications for them . We need the govt. to recognize our identity and services which are solely for the well being of the public.

As far as submission of documentation and reporting is concerned NGOs are already sharing much of the information with GOVT and even signing MOUs with the district /local govt for getting their support in the implementation of their projects. Inspite of all this collaboration if Govt seeks to hold and control over the policies of NGOs, it is not acceptable said Babar Shah CEO PIDS . Mr. Muhammad Zia-ur-Rehman concluded and reached the consensus that if Govt is receptive then we should record our stance seeking the intentions of Govt behind this legislation. From the platform of PDA, the members and representatives of different alliance / organizations agreed to continue their struggle for the rights and development of people of Pakistan.