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**AERIAL SPRAYING AND THE RIGHT TO HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

There had been conflicting claims for and against aerial spraying of pesticides to crops in the country. This has become a two-fold issue of **the human rights to clean and healthy environment** for those whose conditions of life are threatened and **the right of corporations to business and profit** and the impact of loss profit on the livelihood of the workers.

Thus, on the basis of the Rio principle on precautionary measures, hereunder are recommendations stated in the Commission on Human Rights Advisory (CHR IV-A2010-001) on the issue of Aerial Spraying and the Right to Health and Environmental Protection:

- a. CHR calls for the shelving of the practice of aerial spraying of pesticides until a study has been conducted, finalized and validated with the participation from all affected sectors of the society.
- b. CHR recommends a more sustainable solution in lieu of aerial spraying of pesticides. There is wisdom in looking at the possibility of applying pesticide solutions through land-based means without going through aerial spraying. The CHR is aware of the costs this will entail, nevertheless, it maintains that cost-efficiency should not sacrifice respect for human rights. Alternative solutions must also be sincerely pursued including for instance the use of organic fertilizers that will prove safer for the people as well as the environment.
- c. Cognizant of the various bills and resolutions in Congress banning aerial spraying of pesticides, CHR respectfully recommends that the study be made an integral part of the consideration of Congress in crafting future bills and resolutions on the matter. **A human rights-based legislation is one of the key elements in ensuring that proper safeguards and standards are set in place for the protection and promotion of human rights.**
- d. CHR calls for the review of the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) as created under Executive Order No. 15 and Executive Order No. 370, as well as other bodies created for the purpose of addressing various issues on health and environment.
- e. CHR calls for the continued monitoring of the practice of aerial spraying of pesticides especially as it may have impact on human rights of the people especially the marginalized sector and the environment.
- f. An independent, objective and wide dissemination of information is necessary for duty and right bearers to ensure proper understanding of all issues concerned, to find a venue for dialogue on conflicting issues and to forge partnership for future cooperation in finding sustainable and effective solutions, programs and actions that will be beneficial to all concerned.