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Re Final Statement of the Netherlands NCP regarding the Specific Instance Procedure of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises concerning Shell in the Niger Delta I

Mr. Evers,

I have taken note of the Final Statement of the Netherlands National Contact Point regarding the Specific Instance Procedure of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises concerning 'Shell in the Niger Delta I'.

As you will be aware, the Dutch government views the OECD Guidelines as the normative framework for international corporate social responsibility. The importance of the OECD Guidelines, which indicate that enterprises should avoid causing or contributing to non-observance of the Guidelines through their activities, cannot be overemphasised. I would like to reiterate and underline that all Dutch enterprises are expected by the government to comply with the OECD Guidelines, irrespective of the country in which they operate.

Given that the dialogue conducted by the NCP resulted in helpful discussions between the parties, I regret that they failed to reach agreement.

I hope that the NCP's well-balanced statement and recommendations will offer the parties opportunities for future dialogue that will strengthen the authority and observance of the OECD Guidelines.


Lillianne Ploumen
Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands