

## **NEWS RELEASE**

from ECCR - the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility - [www.eccr.org.uk](http://www.eccr.org.uk)

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### **ECCR URGES SHELL SHAREHOLDERS TO VOTE YES TO RESPONSIBLE RESOLUTION**

The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR), the faith-based organisation that has initiated a resolution for Royal Dutch Shell shareholders to consider at their AGM in The Hague and London on 16 May, has replied today to the company's published statement about the resolution by urging responsible shareholders to vote yes to the motion.

"Shell's formal response to the resolution, posted on the company's website and issued to shareholders with the AGM papers, fails to address very genuine concerns," says Lee Coates, Chair of ECCR. "We agree with Shell that it has several good policies in place, but evidence on the ground indicates that the company's implementation of its policies is lacking."

ECCR also maintains that the Corrib (Ireland) project indicates a policy deficit with regard to accepting environmental impact assessments completed by other companies.

ECCR has maintained a dialogue with Shell for 12 years and initiated a ground-breaking shareholder resolution in 1997 following the killing of the Ogoni Nine, including Ken Saro Wiwa, in Nigeria in 1995. It cites current contempt of court proceedings filed against Shell Nigeria in December 2005, for failing to stop its poisonous gas flaring, as an example of its failure to live up to its own standards.

In a detailed statement, ECCR argues that evidence from Shell's current projects in Corrib (Ireland), the Niger Delta and Sakhalin (Russia) highlights the gap between the company's policies and statements and the reality on the ground.

ECCR believes that Shell has not managed to convert dialogue with local communities into changes in project design to accommodate stakeholder concerns. It says this has aroused anger - and in the case of Nigeria violence - among local communities.

Nevertheless, ECCR argues that the resolution can have a positive outcome. If Shell is persuaded by shareholder support to implement its recommendations, ECCR claims, this will be a win-win-win-win situation for the company, its shareholders, local stakeholders and the environment.

Notes for Editors:

ECCR's full reply to Shell's statement on the resolution is available at [http://www.eccr.org.uk/news\\_main.html](http://www.eccr.org.uk/news_main.html)

The shareholder resolution and supporting statement are available at [http://www.eccr.org.uk/docs/0603\\_shell\\_resolution\\_statement.pdf](http://www.eccr.org.uk/docs/0603_shell_resolution_statement.pdf)

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Royal Dutch Shell Plc's 2006 AGM will take place on 16 May simultaneously in The Hague, Netherlands, and by live telelink at the Novotel London West Hotel and Convention Centre in Hammersmith, UK.

ECCR is an ecumenical organisation founded in 1989 to promote corporate responsibility in companies and in the churches. It was born out of an exchange between Industrial Missioners in the UK and a trade union in the Philippines. The latter said: "The lives and livelihoods of our people are decided in your boardrooms."

The *Chemical Engineer* said of ECCR's 1997 Shell shareholder resolution that it "could signal a change in the way multinational companies, many of which have Gross Domestic Products as large as a medium-sized country, do business throughout the world".

ECCR and international faith-based partners have researched and published *Principles for Global Corporate Responsibility: Bench Marks for Measuring Business Performance* (2003) [www.bench-marks.org](http://www.bench-marks.org)

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