

Shell response to allegations that it has breached the OECD Guidelines by making misleading statements about oil spills caused by sabotage in Nigeria

26 Jun 2013

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Shell to respond to the following items:

- "Nigeria: Oil giant Shell criticized over Niger Delta pipelines 'sabotage' claims", Amnesty International and Friends of the Earth, 19 Jun 2013, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/nigeria-oil-giant-shell-criticized-over-niger-delta-pipelines-sabotage-clai>
- "Calling for Corporate Accountability A Guide to the 2011 OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises", OECD Watch, June 2013, http://oecdwatch.org/publications-en/Publication_3962/at_download/fullfile (see pages 16 & 26)
- Final Statement, Netherlands National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, 21 Mar 2013, <http://www.oecdguidelines.nl/wp-content/uploads/shell-final-statement-210313.pdf>

Shell sent us the following response:

SPDC has been found to be in compliance with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

"We would like to thank the Dutch OECD national contact point for its efforts in facilitating dialogue with the notifiers. We welcome its call for all parties to focus on solutions to the real issues in the Niger Delta. SPDC regrets that some NGOs continue to take a campaigning approach rather than focusing on on-the-ground solutions that bring societal benefits.

"SPDC operates in a way that is consistent with the OECD Guidelines and is open to working with others that want to help address the challenges faced in Nigeria. Any spill is a serious concern, and SPDC staff and contractors are working hard to eliminate operational spills. Unfortunately the high incidence of oil theft and illegal refining in the Niger Delta exacerbates the problem and has a devastating impact on the environment. This criminality is the real tragedy of the Niger Delta. While it is important that our cleanup programmes are fit for purpose, we need coordinated action from the industry, government, security forces, civil society and others to end this criminality, the main cause of oil pollution in the Delta today."