



▶ FOR IMMEDIATE USE: 17 NOVEMBER 2005

## **SHELL SUPPORTS THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE FACILITY FOR AFRICA PROGRAMME**

Royal Dutch Shell plc and the Shell Foundation today announced combined funding of \$2.5 million for the Investment Climate Facility for Africa, an organisation set up to promote a better investment climate across the continent. This funding will be spread over five years.

Commenting on today's event hosted by the Prime Minister in Downing Street highlighting the UK's contribution to the ICF, Jeroen van der Veer, Chief Executive of Royal Dutch Shell plc, said: "Shell has been in Africa for many years and remains a committed long-term investor. We believe the ICF offers a vehicle through which our local knowledge and commercial expertise can be amplified and channelled to accelerate the growth of enterprises of all sizes and operating in all sectors."

The ICF will work by selecting and funding projects designed to tackle and eliminate obstacles which constrain private sector investment. The projects will be backed by the local governments and will have the support of the local business communities.

Kurt Hoffman, director of the Shell Foundation, added: "The ICF's commitment to being a public-private partnership that is both business-led and features close co-operation with African governments on implementation sets it apart. This approach should allow the insights of those who best understand the business environment in Africa to be combined with the knowledge and policy role of local government to create the conditions for enterprise growth - and through that the sustained reduction of poverty. The formal establishment of ICF is only the first step and much work remains to be done before this potential can be fulfilled. But the ICF is a bold initiative with great prospects to contribute to pro-poor growth Africa and one that the Shell Foundation is proud to be associated with."

In addition to financial support, Shell Foundation will also offer practical business experience based on their considerable success in promoting and supporting the development of small independent businesses within third world communities.

The ICF will be a public private partnership, funded by companies, bilateral and multilateral donors, and working in close partnership with African governments and regional organisations such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

## **ENQUIRIES:**

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Shell in Africa**

Royal Dutch Shell plc has been in Africa for more than 100 years and operates in 37 countries. The company directly employs over 12,000 people in Africa. Shell is a long time member of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative and supports the United Nations' Global Compact - Growing Sustainable Business (GSB) initiative. Shell has also led a GSB pilot project in Ethiopia.

#### **About the Shell Foundation**

The Shell Foundation is an independent charitable foundation established in 2000 and funded by the Royal Dutch Shell/Group of Companies. For the past five years, the Shell Foundation has been exploring ways to catalyse and scale-up market and enterprise solutions to poverty - and how to harness to the same task, the value-creating assets of multinational corporations. In Africa, the Shell Foundation has co-developed and piloted a small number of successful small enterprise investment funds and recently launched the \$24m East African Enterprise Fund, in partnership with Grofin Capital, an Africa- based fund manager specializing in the small enterprise sector, local banks and development finance institutions such as the UK's CDC Group.

#### **Royal Dutch Shell plc**

Royal Dutch Shell plc is incorporated in England and Wales, has its headquarters in The Hague and is listed on the London, Amsterdam, and New York stock exchanges. Shell companies have operations in more than 145 countries with businesses including oil and gas exploration and production; production and marketing of Liquefied Natural Gas and Gas to Liquids; manufacturing, marketing and shipping of oil products and chemicals and renewable energy projects including wind and solar power. For further information, visit <http://www.shell.com>

#### **Disclaimer statement**

This announcement contains forward-looking statements, that are subject to risk factors associated with the oil, gas, power, chemicals and renewables business. It is believed that the expectations reflected in these statements are reasonable, but may be affected by a variety of variables which could cause actual results, trends or reserves replacement to differ materially, including, but not limited to: price fluctuations, actual demand, currency fluctuations, drilling and production results, reserve estimates, loss of market, industry competition, environmental risks, physical risks, risks associated with the identification of suitable potential acquisition properties and targets and the successful negotiation and consummation of transactions, the risk of doing business in developing countries, legislative, fiscal and regulatory developments including potential litigation and regulatory effects arising from recategorisation of reserves, economic and financial market conditions in various countries and regions, political risks, project delay or advancement, approvals and cost estimates.

Please refer to the Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2004 (as amended) for a description of certain important factors, risks and uncertainties that may affect the Shell Group's businesses. Neither Royal Dutch Shell plc nor any member of the Shell Group undertakes any obligation to publicly update or revise any of these forward-looking statements, whether to reflect new information, future events or other information.

#### **Cautionary Note to US Investors:**

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") permits oil and gas companies, in their filings with the SEC, to disclose only proved reserves that a company has demonstrated by actual production or conclusive formation tests to be economically and legally producible under existing economic and operating conditions. We use certain terms in this presentation, such as "expected producible resources" and "amount of reserves we expect to produce", that the SEC's guidelines strictly prohibit us from including in filings with the SEC.