

## PRESS RELEASE

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### KASE rang the bell for gender equality

On 7 March 2019 Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC (KASE) in partnership with UN Women Kazakhstan, the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and under the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (UN SSE Initiative) had the opening bell ceremony titled "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality". KASE joined the UN Initiative on 24 September 2015.

The event celebrates the International Women's Day and seeks to highlight criticality of promoting gender equality, economic empowerment of women and enhancing their role in society.

"KASE is fully supportive of UN sustainable development agenda, including gender equality; it is also keen to have it in the business community spotlight and contribute to gender equality in companies and organizations. Consistent and progressive implementation of sustainable business practices is key to robust performance of any entity," said Alina Aldambergen, KASE Chairman of the Board.

"Greater participation of women in the labor market at a level equal to men's could significantly increase GDPs of countries and boost the national economy growth. Some countries lose up to 27% of their GDP through women's inadequate participation in the labor market. Kazakhstan has been implementing important measures in this direction, and we hope that our joint efforts will result in further expansion of women's rights and opportunities in the national economy", emphasized Liliya Burunchuk, Regional Director of the World Bank in Central Asia.

"Private sector plays a pivotal role in the sustainable development of the country and achievement of gender equality in society. We urge Kazakhstani companies to support the Women's Empowerment Principles" which will help not only to reinforce the position of their businesses, but also to make the society more sustainable with a stronger role to be played by women. It will contribute even more to fulfilling Kazakhstan's objective of joining the 30 most developed economies", said Elaine Konkievich, representative of UN Women Kazakhstan.

The KASE ceremony was attended by prominent Kazakhstani women who contribute to the country's social and political, financial and economic spheres.

According to "*The Global Gender Gap Report – 2018*" published the World Economic Forum, Kazakhstan is ranked 60<sup>th</sup> out of 149 countries and holds the 25<sup>th</sup> position under "Employed Women" indicator in the Global Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum.

Every year, over 60 exchanges around the world, on average, join this UN initiative. This event is also organized by the United Nations Global Compact, UN Women, IFC, Women in ETFs, and the World Federation of Exchanges.

The *Ring the Bell for Gender Equality* Initiative brings together female business-leader, representatives of governmental agencies and others at stock exchanges worldwide.

## **About Partner Organizations**

### **The UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative**

The SSE initiative is a platform to strengthen collaboration between exchanges, investors, regulators in order to ensure long-term sustainable investment, and to enhance corporate transparency and achieve compliance with ESG standards. The initiative was launched by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2009.

### **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)**

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and empowerment of women. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide.

**The World Bank Group** plays a key role in efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and increase global welfare in the world. It includes the World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)) and the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Working together in more than 100 countries, these organizations provide funding, advice and other services that allow countries to solve the most pressing issues of economic development. For more information, please see [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org), [www.miga.org](http://www.miga.org) and [www.ifc.org](http://www.ifc.org).

**Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC (KASE)** is the leading stock exchange in the Central Asian region. KASE ranks second among CIS exchanges in terms of trading in securities, and sixth in capitalization of the FEAS stock market. This is a universal trading platform for corporate and public securities, bonds of international financial institutions, foreign currencies, money market operations - repo and swap, as well as derivatives. KASE is a member of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), FEAS and other international and domestic industry associations.

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