

# KAZAKHSTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

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## PRESS RELEASE

Almaty

March 09, 2017

### **KASE held a securities trading opening ceremony dedicated to the gender equality**

On March 09, 2017, Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC (KASE) held a securities trading opening ceremony on the occasion of the International Women's Day on March 08. This event took place as KASE joined the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE Initiative) and highlighted the importance of the gender equality, women's empowerment for sustainable development and business. The representatives of the National Bank of Kazakhstan, Central Depository and large financial organizations being members of KASE took part in the event.

KASE joined the SSE Initiative in 2015. Thanks to the SSE Initiative, KASE now has access to international experience in the field of the capital market transparency and sustainability, therefore supporting the idea of the Government and National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan to assist in improving the corporate governance and raising social responsibility (including the gender issues) and ecology.

In 2016, KASE developed a methodology for a report using the criteria of environmental friendliness, social responsibility and corporate governance, effective as of December 01, 2016. In accordance with this, KASE encourages the companies to provide the information on all significant aspects of their activities, including the gender aspects of their companies. According to KASE statistics, only 10.5% (15 out of 143) of issuers are managed by women.

Gender equality is a pressing social issue. Kazakhstan, as part of the global world, also strives to achieve the gender equality.

According to The Global Gender Gap Index – 2016, the global study on the gender equality, using by the World Economic Forum methodology, Kazakhstan is on the 51st place out of 144 countries around the world. Among the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region countries, our country takes the 10th place and 1st place from the Central Asia countries.

Implementation of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the period until 2030, established by the leaders of the UN member-countries, began in 2016 worldwide. Gender equality is a separate goal aimed at eliminating the discrimination and violence against women and girls and ensuring equal participation and opportunities for them in all areas of life.

### **Details**

SSE Initiative is a peer-to-peer learning platform for exploring how exchanges, in collaboration with investors, regulators, and companies, can enhance corporate transparency – and ultimately performance – on ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) issues and encourage sustainable investment. It was launched in 2009 by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Kazakhstan Stock Exchange (KASE) is the leading stock exchange in the Central Asian region and the only exchange in Kazakhstan, carrying out their activities in the financial market. It is a universal trading platform for repo market instruments, foreign currencies, government and corporate securities, bonds of international financial institutions as well as derivatives.

KASE is the member of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), Federation of European and Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS) and other international and local professional associations.

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