



## PRESS RELEASE

Almaty City

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### **KASE together with IFC held the annual trade opening ceremony Ring the Bell for Gender Equality**

On March 6, 2024, Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC (hereinafter referred to as the Exchange, KASE), together with the International Finance Corporation (hereinafter referred to as IFC), as part of implementation of the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (hereinafter referred to as the SSE Initiative) held an annual "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality" trade opening ceremony, which included a discussion on the topic "Invest in Women: Accelerating Progress."

Opening ceremony of the Ring the Bell for Gender Equality trade is intended to draw attention of the global community to prospects for development of gender inclusivity and support for gender equality in the context of sustainable development policies and ESG principles.

Opening speeches at the event were made by Chairperson of the Management Board of the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC Alina Aldambergen, Director of the Department of Environmental Securities Market of the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market Aidyn Dauletbaev, Board Chairperson of ALE "Association of Financiers of Kazakhstan" (AFK) Yelena Bakhmutova, specialist in IFC investments and Women's Banking Champion in the East, Central Asia and Turkey Ceren Ozhan. A video message was delivered by IFC Vice President Emmanuel Nirinkindi and IFC Director for European, Economic Affairs and Social Issues Natalie Gabala.

"Today, more than 100 exchanges worldwide are celebrating their tenth anniversary "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality" trade opening ceremony. KASE joined the ceremony in 2017 and to this day it promotes in Kazakhstan the goals of ensuring gender equality, empowering women for sustainable development and business, as well as their presence in leading positions and participation in solving primary issues of the country," Aldambergen Alina pointed out.

Deputy Chairman of the Management Board of Damu Entrepreneurship Development Fund JSC Abdollah Nursultan also made a presentation on the topic "Measures of government support for women's entrepreneurship implemented by Damu Fund."

Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress discussion featured investment experts and executives from major financial institutions, who discussed themes of gender inclusivity in sustainable investing in women's entrepreneurship and agriculture finance.

Speakers at the "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" discussion at the event included heads of country operations and Acting Directors of the Representative Office of the Asian Development Bank in Kazakhstan Iskandar Gulamov, Acting Chief of the UN Women Office in Kazakhstan Dina Amrisheva, Vice President and Member of the Management Board of Bank CenterCredit JSC Nurlan Shegebaev. Other participants of the discussion included Operations Director of Black Biotechnology LLP Aizhan Kumisbekova and General Director of BRBAPK LLP Akmaral Mukhatova, who spoke about their success story in raising funds on KASE platform. The discussion was moderated by Director of the KASE Department for Work with Issuers and Investors Dauren Tasmagambetov.

"This year, the theme of the International Women's Day highlights the importance of investing in women to achieve gender equality. Accelerate progress in this direction is essential for sustainable development of the society and economic prosperity of the country, and now it is time for decisive joint action by all stakeholders by investing in advancing gender equality and empowering the women," emphasized Dina Amrisheva.

The opening bell has become a good tradition for the financial community of Kazakhstan and a platform for dialogue on the topic of Palestinian diversity in modern business conditions.

The trade was opened by striking the gong by Vice President and Member of the Management Board of Bank CenterCredit JSC Nurlan Shegebayev and General Director of BRBAPK LLP Akmaral Mukhatova.

Deputy Chairman of the Management Board of the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange, Zhainar Sarzhakov, spoke about the methods of trading on the KASE and the instruments being traded.

KASE holds this ceremony for the 7th time as part of implementation of the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative, which KASE joined in 2015. This campaign is traditionally supported worldwide by the UN Women, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Women and Exchange Traded Funds and the World Federation of Exchanges. Every year, over 100 exchanges in the world ring the opening bell to celebrate gender equality as part of the UN SSE Initiative.

It is important to indicate that one of the activities of the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative is to highlight the key role that organizations can play in promoting the gender equality to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals, raising awareness of women's empowerment in the private sector and access to finance.

The event with a general agenda on gender inclusivity was held on the eve of the International Women's Day.

### **For reference**

Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC is the leading stock exchange in the Central Asian region. KASE ranks the second among the CIS exchanges in terms of securities trading volume and fourth in terms of capitalization of the FEAS exchanges' stock market.

It is a universal trading platform for corporate and government securities, bonds of international financial organizations, foreign currencies, money market transactions - repo and currency swap, as well as derivatives.

KASE is a member of the International Federation of Exchanges (WFE), the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS), the International Association of Exchanges of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IAB CIS), The Global Association of Central Counterparties (CCP Global) and other international and domestic professional associations, and also a participant in the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative.

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