

KAZAKHSTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

PRESS RELEASE

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Chairman of KASE Management Board took part in the 61st session of the UN's Commission on the Status of Women

On March 13, 2017 the 61st session of the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (hereinafter – the session) began in the headquarters of the United Nations (the UN).

Kazakhstan's official delegation is taking part in the Session devoted to the subject of extending economic opportunities for women in the context of changes in the sphere of labor.

The delegation headed by Madina Abylkassymova, Vice-minister of National Economy, member of the National Commission on Women Issues and Family and Demography Policy of the President of Republic of Kazakhstan, includes Alina Aldambergen, Chairman of Management Board of Kazakhstan Stock Exchange (KASE) and Aigul Mukhamadieva, deputy Chairman of Management Board of KazAgro. The session is attended by heads of governments, ministers, representatives of around 170 countries of the world.

As part of her speech in the Session the Chairman of KASE's Management Board outlined the main aspects of the interaction between the state and non-government organizations in assisting the extension of economic rights and opportunities for women in the context of changes in the sphere of labor. Alina Aldambergen emphasized the development of female entrepreneurship in small and medium sized business.

"Active involvement of women in the small and medium-sized business is necessary for improving the economic situation and reducing the unemployment among women, as well as for setting up a sustainable middle class in the society. If we turn to the statistics, it shows that women make 61 % of the total number of employed population of Kazakhstan, – said Alina Aldambergen, the Chairman of KASE's Management Board. – Several programs aimed at supporting and developing the female entrepreneurship were adopted in Kazakhstan. In particular, the Program of Productive Employment and Development of Mass Entrepreneurship for 2017–2021, State Program of Agriculture Development 2017–2021, "Business Road Map – 2020", as well as programs of international financial institutions and Entrepreneurship Development Fund "Damu".

Development of female entrepreneurship is one of priorities of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs "Atameken" (the NCE) which acts as the operator of financial and non-financial support for small and medium-sized businesses. The NCE in 2016 for the first time as a trial launched a program of micro-crediting of businesses in six regions of Kazakhstan. At distribution of microcredits projects presented by regional councils of business women "Atameken". Also, great work is done to set up associations – industry-specific professional floors in those spheres of economy where women dominate.

In terms of non-financial support the NCE provides services for businesses, information support through Centers of support of entrepreneurs and implements an education project called "Business School".

The Association of Business Women of Kazakhstan (the Association) is actively involved in development and support of socially important projects in spheres like "Woman and Employment", "Woman and Business", "Women and Politics", "Gender and Development". The Association organized courses, where unemployed women underwent psychological rehabilitation, learned computer literacy, obtained skills of operating own business, marketing, essentials of law and economics.

Of particular importance is activity of the Associations with regard to political promotion of women, which lead to establishment of "Female Politicians Clubs" and "Female Leadership Schools" in all regions of the country. As a result, women all over the country can exchange experience and

knowledge, gain skills of management and competitiveness. Following successful operation of clubs in each region of Kazakhstan there emerged a candidate pool of female professionals for promoting them to the decision making level.

"Kazakhstan Stock Exchange, in its turn, being a platform where major and medium businesses can raise funding, also promotes the issue of extending economic opportunities for women among the business community, – pointed Alina Aldambergen, the Chairman of KASE's Management Board. – Based on the best practices of implementing the gender equality, KASE aligns its internal business processes and procedures through implementing a set of measures, particularly, promoting the issue of gender equality among listed companies, KASE members, as well as ensuring equality in access to capital markets for companies, owned or chaired by women".

In 2015 KASE joined the UN's initiative "Sustainable Stock Exchanges", and in 2016 released the Methodology of Information Disclosure in compliance with criteria of ecology, sociality and corporate governance (ESG). The Methodology reflects KASE's recommendations for listed companies and members of KASE regarding disclosure of ESG information, including information on the current parity between men and women in the industry on the whole and in executive bodies, on the remuneration system broken down by the gender principle".

As part of this Initiative on March 9 KASE opened trading in support of extending economic rights and opportunities for women.

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For reference

The Commission on the Status of Women is a functional body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It makes review of the progress of international standards for protection and promotion of women's rights and development of suggestions for their due implementation. The Commission includes 45 states — UN members elected for a term of four years. Currently, among them are Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Republic of Tajikistan.

The Commission conducts open meetings. All countries – members of the UN can make a speech in its sessions. However, only members of the Commission can take decisions. Decisions and resolutions of this body are forwarded for approval to the ECOSOC. The Commission was set up one year after the establishment of the UN. In 1975 the first World Conference on the Status of Women was held in Mexico.

Kazakhstan Stock Exchange (KASE) is the leading stock exchange in the Central Asian region and the only exchange in Kazakhstan, carrying out its 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 a member of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS) and other international and local professional associations. In 2015, KASE joined the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative.

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