



## PRESS RELEASE

Almaty

March 4, 2022

### **KASE co-hosted the annual Ring the Bell for Gender Equality trade opening ceremony and the conference "Gender Inclusion and Sustainable Development" with IFC**

Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC (hereinafter - the Exchange, KASE) together with the International Finance Corporation (hereinafter - the IFC) held the annual opening ceremony of Ring the Bell for Gender Equality, which included the conference "Gender Inclusion and Sustainable Development" on March 4, 2022.

Ring the Bell for Gender Equality trade opening ceremony to draw global attention to gender inclusion perspectives and support for gender equality in the context of sustainable development policies, ESG principles and green finance.

KASE is holding this ceremony for the 5th time as part of implementation of the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (UN SSE Initiative), which KASE joined in 2015. This action around the world is traditionally supported by UN Women, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Women and Index Funds and the World Federation of Exchanges. More than 100 stock exchanges around the world host the opening ceremony in 2022.

The opening ceremony has become a good tradition for Kazakhstan's financial community and a platform for dialogue on gender diversity in today's business environment.

Importantly, one aspect of the UN SSE Initiative's thrust is to highlight the key role that organisations can play in promoting gender equality to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals, raising awareness of women's empowerment in the private sector and access to finance.

Notably, this year's conference with a general agenda for gender inclusion takes place on the eve of International Women's Day.

Alina Aldambergen, Chair of the Board of Kazakhstan Stock Exchange and Ekaterina Benjamin, Head of the IFC's Kazakhstan office, delivered welcoming remarks at the annual Ring the Bell for Gender Equality opening ceremony.

Speakers at the international event were Gulchehra Abdullayeva, Deputy Director of the Securities Market Department of the Financial Market Regulation and Development Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Yerlan Burabayev, Managing Director of the Centre for Development of the Stock and Insurance Sector of the Association of Financiers of Kazakhstan; Saule Sabiyeva, Head of Green Technology of the Climate Policy and Green Technology Department of the Ministry of Environment, Geology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan; Adalat Abdumonapova, Project Manager of the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange and the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange.

Participants discussed the role of gender inclusiveness in climate risk management, measures and initiatives of the financial regulator to develop ESG principles in the domestic financial sector, and promoting equal opportunities in access to green finance. Special attention at the event was paid to the topics on implementation of green taxonomy in Kazakhstan, ESG and gender agenda in venture capital business. The discussion included issues related to providing opportunities to SMEs through the issuance of green bonds.

**For reference**

Kazakhstan Stock Exchange (KASE) is the leading stock exchange in in the Central Asian region. KASE ranks second among CIS exchanges in terms of volume of securities trades, and sixth in terms of capitalisation of the FEAS share market.

It is a universal trading platform for corporate and government securities, bonds of international financial institutions, foreign currencies, money market transactions - repo and swap, as well as derivatives. KASE is a member of the International Federation of Exchanges (WFE), Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS) and other international and domestic professional associations, as well as a member of the UN initiative "Stock Exchanges for Sustainable Development".

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