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Ms. Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo

## Opinion against Partnership Agreement between the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Pfizer Japan

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### Purpose of the Opinion

We oppose the partnership agreement between the Tokyo metropolitan government and Pfizer Japan that was struck in the field of welfare and healthcare. The Tokyo government should promptly dissolve the agreement.

### Reasons for the Opinion

1. In December 2022, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government signed a partnership agreement with Pfizer Japan Inc. (hereinafter "Pfizer") in the field of welfare and healthcare.

The following six items are to be performed in collaboration<sup>1</sup>:

- (1) Matters related to joint research
- (2) Matters related to the healthy growth of children
- (3) Matters related to health promotion
- (4) Matters related to medical care
- (5) Matters related to human rights
- (6) Other matters related to the revitalization of local communities and

improvement of services for Tokyo residents

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government says that through partnership and cooperation, it will develop local communities and further improve services for Tokyo residents.

2. However, Pfizer manufactures and sells a variety of pharmaceuticals, including a COVID-19 vaccine. Its sales volume of pharmaceuticals could also be influenced by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's welfare and healthcare policies. Therefore, there is a significant conflict of interest and biased policies may be adopted that overvalue vaccines and therapeutics.

In the first place, the Tokyo Government's duties include monitoring and providing guidance to pharmaceutical companies (as stipulated in Article 1-3 of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Law), and pharmaceutical companies are also subject to monitoring and guidance by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. A partnership agreement with a specific company that is the subject of monitoring and guidance harshly undermines the neutrality and fairness of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's welfare and healthcare administration and is definitely inappropriate.

Last year, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government appointed as a member of the Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education Ms. Kyoko Miyahara, who is Director and Operating Officer, General Manager of Inflammation and Immunology Unit at Pfizer Japan Inc. This partnership agreement follows on from Ms. Miyahara's appointment, making the relationship a form of "collusion", which is nothing but abnormal.

We published an opinion opposing the appointment of Ms. Miyahara as a member of the Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education<sup>2</sup>. We also strongly oppose the partnership agreement struck between the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Pfizer in the field of welfare and

healthcare. The Tokyo government should, therefore, promptly dissolve the agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Social Welfare and Public Health, Tokyo Metropolitan Government  
<https://www.fukushihoken.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/joho/soshiki/kansen/keikaku/oshirase/renkeikyoutei.html>

<sup>2</sup> Opinion against the appointment of a Pfizer Japan Executive Officer as a member of the Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education  
[https://www.yakugai.gr.jp/topics/file/Pfizer\\_yakuin\\_tokyouikuin\\_ninmei\\_hantai\\_ikensho2.pdf](https://www.yakugai.gr.jp/topics/file/Pfizer_yakuin_tokyouikuin_ninmei_hantai_ikensho2.pdf)