Message from Group CSuO

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Message From Chief Sustainability Officer

In the previous Medium-Term Management Plan, SMBC Group positioned "Create Social Value" as one of the pillars of its management. Aiming to contribute to the realization of "Fulfilled Growth," where economic growth solves social issues and people feel happiness, we have developed various initiatives globally.

Over these three years, awareness, empathy, and action among employees have steadily expanded, and some initiatives have garnered attention from external stakeholders. Using "Shaka-kachi" (a term combining the Japanese words for 'social value') as our rallying cry, I have a strong sense that the creation of social value is beginning to take root in the awareness and actions of each employee not only in Japan but around the world.

Looking globally, due to fluctuations in the international order and progress in decoupling, societal views on sustainability and the pace of corporate efforts are not necessarily aligned. On the other hand, social issues such as climate change and Poverty and Inequality are, if anything, continuing to expand and become more serious.

Right now, our commitment to social value creation is being questioned anew. In this environment, we, SMBC Group, as a global financial institution leading Japan, want to sincerely confront the various challenges surrounding the world and, through the creation of impact aimed at realizing a better society, respond to the improvement of medium- to long-term corporate value and the expectations of diverse stakeholders.

In further advancing our initiatives for social value creation in the new Medium-Term Management Plan, we established the "SMBC Group Statement on Social Value Creation" to demonstrate our determination, as a front-runner, to strive to pass on a society filled with happiness and well-being to future generations. Concurrently, we revised our materiality into three themes: "Green Planet," "Thriving People," and "Fulfilled Growth." We will continue to further strengthen our initiatives leveraging the strengths and distinctiveness of SMBC Group.

Under "Green Planet," we will pass on a green and planet to future generations through an integrated approach to climate change, natural capital, and circular economy. With "Thriving People," we create a society where everyone can pursue their aspirations, by breaking the cycle of Poverty and Inequality and through education, opportunities for challenge, and respect for human rights. And under "Fulfilled Growth," we will deliver growth that brings fulfillment from Japan to the world through the creation of new industries, structural transformation of existing industries, and the building of social infrastructure and digital foundations.

Furthermore, we will clarify the impact SMBC Group creates in each materiality area and challenge ourselves to set and disclose impact-based goals, demonstrating the three-year objectives and progress toward them.

Resolving social issues is not something we can achieve alone. It is necessary for diverse actors—individuals, companies, universities, governments, etc.—to collaborate beyond their boundaries and work together. SMBC Group, as a nexus connecting with customers in diverse regions and industries worldwide, will support customers and businesses tackling social issues.

And as a "front-runner in social value creation," we will connect the world through the power of finance and lead problem-solving, thereby accelerating a virtuous cycle of creating social value together with our customers and passing on a society filled with happiness and well-being to future generations.