# ZOZO, Inc.

# **Corporate Governance Code**

#### Section 1:

**Ensuring the Rights and Equal Treatment of Shareholders** 

# [General Principle 1]

The listed companies should take appropriate measures to fully ensure shareholder rights and develop an environment where shareholders can exercise their rights appropriately and effectively. In addition, the listed companies should ensure effective and equal treatment of shareholders.

Given its sensitivities, adequate consideration should be given to the minority and foreign shareholders to ensure the actual rights of shareholders, the environment to exercise the right, and equal treatment.

The Group provides information to all stakeholders in a timely, accurate, fair, and continuous manner in compliance with the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and other relevant laws and regulations, as well as the rules on timely disclosure, etc. established by the Tokyo Stock Exchange (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulations for Timely Disclosure"). The Company also has a policy of disclosing other information not covered by the Regulations for Timely Disclosure in a prompt, accurate, and fair manner by appropriate means, taking into account the purpose of timely disclosure.

# [Principle 1-1 Ensuring the Rights of Shareholders]

The listed companies should take appropriate measures to fully ensure shareholder rights, including voting rights at the General Meeting of Shareholders.

The Company provides an environment that enables proactive information disclosure and facilitates the exercise of voting rights to ensure shareholder rights.

# <Supplementary Principle>

1-1 ① When the Board of Directors recognizes that a considerable number of votes have been cast against a proposal by the Company and the proposal was approved, the Board of Directors should analyze the reasons behind the opposing votes and why many shareholders opposed and should consider the necessity of the dialog with shareholders and other measures.

The Company conducts analysis and considers the counterplan to the causes of opposition to all resolutions at the General Meeting of Shareholders, led by All Directors, to get a concrete understanding of our shareholders' opinions.

1-1 ② When proposing to shareholders that certain powers of the General Meeting of Shareholders be delegated to the Board of Directors, the listed companies should consider whether the Board of Directors is adequately constituted to fulfill its corporate governance roles and responsibilities. If those companies determine that the Board of Directors is indeed adequately constituted, then it should recognize that such delegation may be desirable from the perspectives of agile decision-making and expertise in business judgment.

The Company establishes the provision in the Articles of Incorporation that it may determine dividends from surplus upon a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors as one of the matters subject to a resolution at the General Meeting of Shareholders that is to be entrusted to the Board of Directors (based on the provision of Article 459, Paragraph 1, of the Companies Act). The current Board of Directors consists of 11 members in total, including 3 Executive Directors and 8 non-executive Directors (6 of whom are Outside Directors). All three Audit and Supervisory Committee members are appointed as Outside Directors, and all Outside Directors are registered as independent officers with the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Outside Directors

continue to perform roles and execute duties in corporate governance through the exchange of opinions with the management from external perspectives and the appropriate expression of opinions.

1-1 ③ Given the importance of shareholder rights, the listed companies should ensure that the exercise of shareholder rights is not impeded. In particular, adequate consideration should be given to the special rights that are recognized for minority shareholders with respect to those listed companies and their officers, including the right to seek an injunction against illegal activities or the right to file a shareholder lawsuit, since the exercise of these rights tends to be prone to issues and concerns.

The Company ensures the minority rights of shareholders recognized under the Companies Act, by stipulating procedures for exercising rights and methods to confirm shareholders based on the Stock Handling Guidelines.

[Principle 1-2 Exercise of Shareholder Rights at the General Meeting of Shareholders The listed companies should recognize that the General Meeting of Shareholders is an opportunity for constructive dialog with shareholders and should take appropriate measures to ensure the exercise of shareholder rights at such meetings.

The Company acknowledges the General Meeting of Shareholders as an opportunity for constructive dialog with shareholders. Therefore, we started to hold the virtual-only General Meeting of Shareholders in June 2023 so that more shareholders could participate in the General Meeting of Shareholders. We make the environment more accessible for shareholders to exercise voting rights by adopting the method to exercise voting rights by posting a voting rights exercise form and a web-based electronic platform for the exercise of voting rights.

Additionally, the Q&A, brought up during the General Meeting of Shareholders, is disclosed. The Company continuously provides information from shareholders' viewpoints.

#### <Supplementary Principle>

1-2 ① The listed companies should provide accurate information to shareholders as necessary in order to facilitate an appropriate decision-making process at the General Meeting of Shareholders.

The Company believes that we should provide accurate information to shareholders as necessary in order to facilitate appropriate decision-making processes at the General Meeting of Shareholders. For proposals at the General Meeting of Shareholders, the Company will disclose them promptly through the Company's website and the TD-net's Timely Disclosure and Viewing Service by the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

1-2 ② While ensuring the accuracy of content, the listed companies should strive to send the notice of convocation of the General Meeting of Shareholders early enough to provide shareholders with sufficient time to consider the agenda. During the period between the resolution of the convocation of the General Meeting of Shareholders by the Board Meeting and the dispatch of the notice of convocation, information, including the notice of convocation, should be disclosed by electronic measures such as TD-net or on the Company's website.

The Company executes the early disclosure of materials for the General Meeting of Shareholders to ensure that shareholders have sufficient time to consider the proposals for the General Meeting. The materials are available on the Company's website and on the website of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, "TSE Listed Company Information Service," after completion of the procedures, which include resolutions of the Board of Directors, at least three weeks prior to the General Meeting of Shareholders.

1-2 ③ The determination of the date of the General Meeting of Shareholders and any associated dates should consider facilitating sufficient constructive dialog with shareholders and ensuring the accuracy of information necessary for such dialog.

The Company believes that the General Meeting of Shareholders is an opportunity for dialog with shareholders, so it is important to consider a schedule that enables as many shareholders as possible to

attend. Therefore, the Company has been making efforts to schedule the General Meeting of Shareholders on dates that do not coincide with those of many other companies' General Meetings.

1-2 ④ Given the number of institutional and foreign shareholders, the listed companies should create an infrastructure that enables electronic voting, including the use of the Electronic Voting Platform and the provision of English translations of the notice of convocation of the General Meeting of Shareholders. In particular, the listed companies on the Prime Market of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) should, at least, make the Electronic Voting Platform available to institutional investors.

Considering shareholder composition, the Company is disclosing English translations of the notice of convocation on its website for overseas institutional investors. To improve and maintain an easy voting environment for shareholders, the Company has adopted a digital platform for exercising voting rights.

1-2 ⑤ In order to allow institutional investors that hold shares in the name of trust banks to exercise their voting rights on behalf of the trust banks at the General Meeting of Shareholders, the listed companies should consult with trust banks to consider this matter.

The Company acknowledges that institutional investors recorded on the Shareholders' List as shareholders on the record date are entitled to exercise their voting rights. If beneficial shareholders wish to attend the General Meeting of Shareholders, the Company will consider whether to permit their attendance.

# [Principle 1-3 Basic Plan for Capital Policy]

The listed companies should explain their basic plan regarding their capital policy since this may significantly impact shareholder returns.

The Company believes that if profitability exceeds the actual cost of equity, corporate value increases, which ultimately satisfies both shareholders and stakeholders. We understand the importance of appropriate profit sharing with shareholders in terms of financial basis and investment plans. To realize this, we have introduced Return on Equity (ROE) as a management indicator for efficient management. Specifically, we will strive to strengthen profitability and efficiently utilize net assets aiming to achieve 30 % of ROE, while taking into consideration the level of similar companies from a global perspective.

#### [Principle 1-4 Cross-Shareholdings]

When the listed companies hold listed shares of other companies as cross-shareholdings, they should disclose their policy with respect to cross-shareholding, including the policy and view on reducing cross-shareholdings. Additionally, the Board of Directors should carefully examine individual cross-shareholdings annually with respect to the appropriateness of the purpose for holding shares and the adequacy of benefits and risks against the capital cost and verify the appropriateness of holding shares. Details of this verification should also be disclosed. The listed companies should establish and disclose concrete standards for ensuring appropriate responses to the exercise of voting rights with respect to cross-shareholdings and respond accordingly.

Currently, the Company does not hold any cross-shareholdings, nor does it have any concrete plans for them. If the necessity for cross-shareholdings arises in the future, the Company will explain how they will contribute to the enhancement of corporate value through maximized synergies. At the same time, we will establish specific standards to ensure appropriate responses to the policy on cross-shareholdings and the exercise of voting rights regarding such shares and take action in accordance with the standards. When the Company makes investments other than pure investments, the basic policy is that these investments should create a synergy effect for existing and new businesses through business partnerships and information sharing with investee companies. The Company has internal regulations for these investments to ensure speedy and proper decision-making according to the basic policy and shall act in compliance with the regulations.

#### <Supplementary Principle>

1-4 ① The Listed companies, when their shares are held as cross-shareholding and the cross-shareholder expresses its intention to sell the shares, should not prevent the sale by

#### suggesting a reduction in transactions.

The Company will not prevent the sale of shares even when the cross-shareholder expresses its intention to sell. As of now, there is no cross-shareholder recognized by the Company.

1-4 ② The listed companies should not engage in transactions with cross-shareholders that would damage their benefits and the common benefits of the shareholders, including continuing transactions without sufficiently verifying the economic rationality of the transaction.

When a transaction occurs with a company holding our shares as cross-shareholding, the Company shall adequately verify the fairness and economic rationality of the transaction and make no transaction that damages our benefits and the common benefits of our shareholders.

### [Principle 1-5 Anti-Takeover Measures]

Anti-takeover measures must not have any objective associated with the entrenchment of the Management or the Board of Directors. With respect to the adoption or implementation of anti-takeover measures, the Board of Directors and Audit and Supervisory Board members should carefully examine the necessity and rationality in light of their fiduciary responsibility to shareholders, ensure appropriate procedures, and provide sufficient explanation to shareholders.

The Company believes that continuing sustainable growth and improving corporate values are among its most important policies, and it has no plans to introduce anti-takeover measures.

# <Supplementary Principle>

1-5 ① In the case of a tender offer, the listed companies should clearly explain the stance of the Board of Directors, including any counteroffers, and should not take any measures that unreasonably interfere with the right of shareholders to accept the tender offer and relinquish their shares.

In the event of a tender offer for the Company's shares, the Company will promptly disclose the stance of the Company's Board of Directors because such offers could have an impact on the shareholder composition and affect the interests of shareholders. In addition, the Company will respect the rights of shareholders and not interfere with shareholders responding to a tender offer.

#### [Principle 1-6 Capital Policy that May Harm Shareholders' Interests]

With respect to the Company's capital policy that results in the change of control or significant dilution, including share offerings and management buyouts, the Board of Directors and Audit and Supervisory Board members should, in order not to unfairly harm the existing shareholders' interests, carefully examine the necessity and rationality from the perspective of their fiduciary responsibility to shareholders, should ensure appropriate procedures, and provide sufficient explanation to shareholders.

When implementing a capital policy that affects the interests of shareholders, the Company will promptly disclose information on the process of consideration, the purpose of implementation, etc., while considering the opinions of Outside Directors and shall work to provide sufficient explanations to shareholders through measures such as the General Meeting of Shareholders, financial results briefings, etc.

#### [Principle 1-7 Related Party Transactions]

When the listed company engages in transactions with its Directors or major shareholders (i.e., related party transactions), in order to ensure that such transactions do not harm the interests of the companies or the common interests of its shareholders and prevent any concerns with respect to such harm, the Board of Directors should establish and disclose appropriate procedures beforehand in accordance with the importance and characteristics of the transaction. In addition, the Board of Directors should monitor (including approving transactions) based on its procedures.

For transactions between related parties, the Board of Directors shall make the final decision, and the Company shall exclude the eligible officers and treat them as an absence of a quorum due to special interests. Also, we offer the Company's and our subsidiaries' Directors a survey concerning interactions between these related parties to ensure a control system over these transactions.

The Company has established the "Guideline to ensure the fairness of transactions with the parent company Group" to regulate transactions with major shareholders, and it operates in accordance with these guidelines. The Company complies with all applicable laws and regulations when conducting transactions with major shareholders, and the terms and conditions of such transactions must not be unfairly advantageous or disadvantageous to the group when compared to similar transactions with third parties. The Company's policy is to determine the terms and conditions of transactions rationally, considering contract terms and market prices, similar to other companies.

#### Section 2:

# **Appropriate Cooperation with Stakeholders Other Than Shareholders**

# **[General Principle 2]**

The listed companies should fully recognize that their sustainable growth and creation of midto long-term corporate value are brought about by the provision of resources and contributions made by a wide range of stakeholders, including employees, customers, business partners, creditors, and local communities. As such, companies should endeavor to appropriately cooperate with these stakeholders. The Board of Directors and the Management should exercise leadership in establishing a corporate culture where the rights and positions of stakeholders are respected, and sound business ethics are ensured.

The Company fully recognizes that its sustainable growth and the creation of mid-to long-term corporate value are brought about by the provision of resources and contributions made by a wide range of stakeholders. Setting "Inspire the world. Deliver joy every day" as our corporate philosophy, the Company aims to realize a better future by connecting fashion with respect for individuality worldwide.

# [Principle 2-1 Corporate Philosophy as the Foundation of Corporate Value Creation Over the Mid-to Long-Term]

Given the social responsibility the listed companies take, the listed companies need to create value for all stakeholders while increasing corporate value over the mid-to long-term. Also, the listed companies should establish the corporate philosophy that will become the basis for such activities.

The Company strives to increase corporate value over the mid-to long-term periods, keeping in mind the social responsibility that we take upon ourselves. In line with our corporate philosophy, "Inspire the World. Deliver joy every day," and management strategy, "MORE FASHION X FASHION TECH, Explore your style. Make you delighted.", we combine fashion and technology and will continue to lead the front line with all stakeholders. In addition, we will be the only entity supporting everyone enjoying fashion to create a future that makes everyone smile.

### [Principle 2-2 Code of Conduct]

The listed companies should draft and implement a code of conduct for employees in order to express values the companies have regarding appropriate cooperation, respect for the interests of stakeholders, and sound and ethical business activities. The Board of Directors should be responsible for drafting and revising the code of conduct and should ensure its compliance broadly across the organization, including the front line of domestic and global operations.

The Company believes that it is essential to draft and implement a code of conduct to express the Company's values regarding appropriately cooperating with and serving the interests of stakeholders and carrying out sound and ethical business activities. The Company believes that it is necessary to increase the number of people who share the values of this philosophy and to connect with even more stakeholders—including customers, clients, and shareholders, through its business activities.

#### <Supplementary Principle>

2-2 ① The Board of Directors should review regularly whether the code of conduct is being widely implemented. The review should focus on the substantive assessment of whether the listed company's corporate culture truly embraces the purpose and spirit of the code of conduct and not solely on the form of implementation and compliance.

The Company believes that it should aim to conduct its business activities in line with its corporate philosophy, which is shared with all employees as appropriate. The Company's code of conduct in accordance with its corporate philosophy has been widely practiced, and a unique corporate culture has been fostered. Additionally, the Management presents it directly at the monthly morning assembly and the semiannual meeting of the entire Company to facilitate penetration among all employees.

# [Principle 2-3 Sustainability Issues, Including Social and Environmental Matters] The listed companies should take appropriate measures to address sustainability issues, including social and environmental matters.

The Company believes that proactively addressing issues concerning the environment, society, and governance (ESG) will create sustainable coexistence and co-prosperity with the general society as well as stakeholders. We have established Four Key Actions under our Sustainable Statement "Fashion Connects and Leads us to a Sustainable Future." We support initiatives that empower people to fulfill their potential with the power of fashion and technology and aim to solve social and environmental issues through the following policies. The Company aims to achieve the following "Sustainability Statement" and "Four Key Actions" by 2030.

In addition to setting out Four Key Actions, we will continue our efforts to balance our sustainable growth with addressing social issues and fulfilling our social responsibilities.

#### 1. Sustainability Statement

Under our Sustainability Statement "Fashion Connects and Leads Us to a Sustainable Future," the Company aims to create a new fashion world that connects fashion and technology, solve global issues in an innovative way with all related people, and improve the environment and society.

#### 2. Four Key actions

The Company has established the following Four Key Actions to realize the Sustainability Statement, and sustainable society and environment:

- ①Providing the sustainable and unexplored services created together with our business partners We aim to solve environmental and social issues by providing safe, secure, sustainable, and exciting services through the use of technology and by collaborating and co-creating with all stakeholders, including business partners.
- ②Realization of workplaces and communities where everyone can live their lives with a smile by promoting DE&I

We aim to realize a fair and just world where everyone can live with respect and smiles in their own way by promoting a work environment that values diversity and contributing to the revitalization of local communities and support for the next-generation people collaborating with stakeholders, especially in industry, government, and academia.

- ③Contributing to a prosperous planet by reducing environmental impact
  We aim to realize a sustainable environment of the earth by working with our stakeholders to solve natural environmental issues and reduce environmental impact.
- ④ Maintain and improve correct management and a strong management system by strengthening governance We will maintain and improve a sound and flexible management system and aim for highly transparent, effective, and prompt management by strengthening corporate governance, risk management, privacy security, etc.

#### 3. Sustainability Management Structure

The company group has established the SDGs Promotion Committee chaired by the Representative Director, President & CEO to promote SDGs management across the Company. The committee works closely with each business department and reports to the Board of Directors to achieve the Four Key Actions and KPIs. (https://corp.zozo.com/en/sustainability/policy/)

#### 4. Environmental Policy

The company group establishes the environmental policy to contribute to the realization of a sustainable environment by actively engaging in maintaining and preserving the environment through our business operations. (https://corp.zozo.com/en/sustainability/policy/)

#### 5. Human Rights Policy

The company group endeavors to maintain a safe working environment and promote initiatives that respect the human rights and individuality of each employee.

(https://corp.zozo.com/en/sustainability/policy/)

#### 6. ZOZO Anti-Corruption Initiatives

The Company is committed to the prevention of corruption through the practice of ethical and honest activities and the establishment of a system to prevent corruption.

(https://corp.zozo.com/en/sustainability/governance/)

### 7. ZOZO Sustainability Procurement Policy

The company group has established a procurement policy for suppliers in order to conduct business giving full consideration to the impact on the environment and society through co-creation and collaboration with the brands that open stores on ZOZOTOWN and the suppliers that make up our supply chain. (https://corp.zozo.com/en/sustainability/governance/)

#### 8. Code of Conduct

We have established a code of conduct that all officers and employees of the ZOZO group must comply with. (https://corp.zozo.com/en/sustainability/policy/)

#### 9. Communication with Stakeholders

The Company aims to enhance its corporate value by promoting the 4 Key Actions through communication with our stakeholders, addressing issues, and reflecting them in our business operations. (https://corp.zozo.com/en/sustainability/policy/)

### <Supplementary Principle>

2-3 ① The Board of Directors should recognize that addressing sustainability-related issues, such as considering global environmental problems, including climate change, respect for human rights, consideration for employees' health and their working environment, fair and appropriate treatment for them, fair and appropriate transactions with business partners, and risk management for natural disasters, is an important management challenge that would create earnings opportunities as well as risk reduction. The Board of Directors should further consider addressing these matters positively and proactively from the perspective of improving corporate value over the mid-to long-term.

The Company recognizes that working on sustainability issues is an important management challenge, as described in Principle 2-3. ZOZOTOWN, the online shopping website that mainly operates consignment sale of fashion merchandise, accounts for 70% or more of the total amount of distribution (Gross Merchandise Value) of the Company, resulting in a lower environmental burden compared to general manufacturers. However, the company will proactively work on ESG issues that need to be addressed by the entire fashion industry as a member engaged in the industry.

The Company aims to increase its corporate value by increasing earnings from existing businesses and creating earnings opportunities in new businesses by understanding the issues through communication with stakeholders, including customers, clients (brands), and employees, and reflecting the findings in business activities. Specifically, the Company introduces "Create a Made-To-Order platform with zero waste" as one of the key actions in its Sustainability Statement. As a strategy for this action, the Company will introduce "Step into the Production Support" of clients (brands) based on demand analysis and production bases. The Company aims for sustainable growth by improving earnings and the good cycle of sustainability through building the link between fashion, technology, and people and creating a new fashion world that improves the environment and society.

#### · Relationship with customers

The number of users of ZOZOTOWN is about 11.6 million per year. The Company focuses on proactively incorporating daily opinions from customers into operating services. Its Customer Support Center has a philosophy, "Be friends with customers", and strives to support and make our customers smile as if helping friends in need.

# Relationship with business partners (brands)

The Company fairly evaluates conditions such as the brand image, product lineup, and sales volume before selecting business partners. At the start of transactions, the store opening agreement is signed

with the brands, and it includes a representation and warranty that supplied goods are manufactured in compliance with relevant laws and regulations and have no risk of unreasonably impairing the rights of third parties, and the brands have no connection with antisocial forces. In addition, it is prohibited to sell "those potentially violating human rights", those potentially disrupting social order," and "those potentially using the name, pictures and images, trademarks, and copyrighted materials of others without permission."

#### Actions in logistics

In order to realize a sustainable society, we are implementing various initiatives at our logistics center, "ZOZOBASE". We are working to conserve energy and reduce CO2 emissions by adopting 100% renewable energy for all electricity used at all locations, LED lighting, and introducing "EMS-AI," which automatically optimizes temperature control in the warehouse.

In addition, we use FSC-certified cardboard and biomass bags as packing materials when delivering items to customers and recycled paper as cushioning materials to protect items in an effort to be environmentally friendly.

In terms of transportation, we completely outsource the last mile of delivery operations.

In response to the "2024 problem" that will arise in April 2024 with the enforcement of the Workplace Reform Law, we are working to reduce the burden on delivery drivers and CO2 emissions by providing users with options to receive the items ordered through ZOZOTOWN such as non-face-to-face delivery (Package drop Service) setting as default.

In addition, ZOZO Research, our R&D organization, is conducting research on appropriate inventory allocation to minimize inter-base transportation and improve loading efficiency in trunk line transportation. This aims to achieve sustainable logistics and reduce CO2 emissions from transportation.

#### Relationship with the local community and society

The Company has been located in Chiba-city, Chiba-Prefecture for many years and has taken various actions with residents to contribute to the local community's development under the idea of "Develop the city where we work by ourselves." The Company aims to realize a new fashion world that enhances the environment and society, collaborating with everyone involved in the process.

#### Consideration of employees' health and working environment for them

The Company promotes diversity management, recognizing that employees are essential for future growth and that employees' diverse skills and personalities contribute to corporate value growth and development. The Company builds a system that supports various working styles and optimizes the lifestyles of individuals based on a mutual understanding of diversity in sexual orientation, gender identification, nationality, and values. The company encourages everyone to address their work in their preferred manner.

[Principle 2-4 Ensuring Diversity, Including Active Participation of Women]
The listed companies should recognize that diverse perspectives and values reflecting a variety of experiences, skills, and characteristics is a strength that supports the company's sustainable growth. Therefore, the listed companies should promote diversity of personnel, including the active participation of women.

We are fully aware that the existence of a variety of values is a strength in ensuring the Company's sustainable growth. The Company actively hires people with disabilities and concentrates on operational support after hiring. The Company also promotes female employees' active participation and provides an environment in which all employees can continue to work actively according to their diverse lifestyles, such as balancing work and childcare.

# <Supplementary Principle>

2-4 ① The listed companies should express their commitment to promoting diversity by ensuring equal opportunities for women, foreigners, and mid-career workers to assume managerial and core human resource positions. They should also set voluntary and measurable goals to achieve this, and report on their progress in ensuring diversity.

Additionally, they should disclose their policies for human resource development and establish an internal environment that fosters diversity, recognizing the importance of a human resource strategy in driving long-term corporate value.

The Company is committed to creating a future where fashion connects people from all over the world and brings them joy, following its corporate philosophy, "Inspire the world. Deliver joy every day". To achieve this vision, the Company practices diversity management and encourages all employees to pursue their work in ways that suit them best.

Given the nature of the fashion business, many employees are passionate about fashion, and the Company has developed a unique corporate culture where everyone can express their individuality through fashion and respect each other's diversity.

The Company has established the mindset of ZOZO staff, "Imagine the unexpected. Chart the unexplored.", "Make a difference every day" and "With love". This is the philosophy of our working style (ZOZO WORKSTYLE). Also, we are updating our HR scheme, benefits, and work styles to create an environment that allows for flexible work styles that match the diverse career perspectives and lifestyles of each employee.

This approach promotes diversity in managers and core human resource positions beyond differences of gender, nationality, and career stage. By fostering an environment that supports human resource development, the Company expects to achieve growth in both its business operations and its employees' capabilities.

#### · Focus on the diversity

The Company places great emphasis on diversity, as evidenced by the statement in its basic human rights policy (https://corp.zozo.com/en/sustainability/policy/) which declares that "all individuals are respected, discrimination and unfair treatment will not be tolerated, and equal opportunities for employment, evaluation, development, deployment, salary increases and promotions, and promotion to positions are given regardless of political views, beliefs, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical attributes, health status, age, nationality, race, or ethnicity. The Company strives to create a workplace where a diverse range of human resources can work actively and productively."

•Actions for the promotion of women's participation and advancement

To further promote the participation and advancement of female employees, the Company established and is implementing a general employer action plan based on the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace. The Company's employee gender ratio is 42.7% of female employees and 57.3% of male employees (as of March 2024), and the ratio of female managers equivalent to or higher than managers is 24.2% (as of March 2024), which is high above the national average of 12.7%.\* Additionally, the meetup is held mainly by employees serving as a role model, including Executive Officers. We will further promote this action following a general employer action plan based on the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.
\*The national average of the ratio of female managers is based on the "FY 2022 Basic Survey on Equal Employment" by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

#### Initiatives concerning employees with disabilities

We have employees with disabilities at a rate of 2.79% (as of June 2023), which is higher than the legally mandated rate. They belong to various departments such as administration, customer support, and development. By considering each individual's disabilities, we aim to be a company where people with and without disabilities can exercise their individuality and be active in their own way.

• Promotion of foreign nationals to core human resources:

The Company has group companies in the United States, New Zealand, Vietnam, and other countries, and appoints foreign nationals as Directors of each group company. We promote the appropriate use of human resources with respect for diversity. We promote human resources regardless of their nationality when business strategies require individuals with experience in overseas business.

- Promotion of mid-career workers to core human resources:
- In FY 2023, the Company hired 171 mid-career workers (100 males and 71 females). Most of the Executive Directors and Officers are mid-career workers, and many mid-career workers are appointed as core human resources to managerial positions. The Company promotes the appropriate use of human resources with respect for diversity, whether new graduates or mid-career workers.
- The policy for human resource development and improvement of the internal environment to ensure diversity
- 1 The policy for human resource development to ensure diversity

In order to enhance the internal environment related to human resource development, the Company provides various training opportunities for all kinds of employees, including non-management employees and managers, to improve the learning environment and promote diversity. Training is provided to acquire the basic knowledge necessary for business operations. Periodic feedback is conducted for managers according to the criteria to assume the position, in order to increase vertical and horizontal cooperation between managers. Additionally, the Company supports employees in work styles that suit their family background or life stages and plans to further improve the human resource strategy and human capital system to increase mid-to long-term corporate value.

#### 2 Improvement of internal environment toward ensuring diversity

The Company promotes diversity management and builds the structure for employees to mutually understand diversity in gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, and values and supports a variety of work styles that suit individual lifestyles. The definition of spouse by the Company's internal regulations includes same-sex partners. This enables our employees to enjoy the benefit of company welfare programs like money or holidays for congratulations and condolences, regardless of the gender of the partner.

The initiatives also include foreign nationalities and religions. When the Company needs to take action regarding nationality and religion, such as preparing the space for prayers at the request of employees, it examines how to respond and considers what to do in each case.

The acquisition rate of childcare leave stood at 100% for female employees and 67.4% for male employees (as of March 2024). The percentage of returning to work after maternity and childcare leaves is extremely high at 100% (as of March 2024). We are committed to creating a comfortable work environment for employees working while raising children, regardless of gender.

#### [Principle 2-5 Whistleblowing System]

The listed companies should establish a framework for whistleblowing to allow employees to report illegal or inappropriate behaviors, disclosures, or any other serious concerns without fear of retaliation. The framework should include an objective assessment process and an appropriate response to the reported issues, and the Board of Directors should be responsible for both establishing the framework and ensuring its enforcement.

The company has developed internal guidelines that include a whistleblowing system (helpline) and created a contact point within the Compliance Committee. In the event of a whistleblowing incident, the Compliance Committee instructs the related departments to conduct surveys and develop plans for implementing countermeasures. The committee also reports on the response and confirms remediation with the whistleblower.

# <Supplementary Principle>

2-5 ① To establish a whistleblowing framework, the listed companies should create an independent point of contact for whistleblowers, such as a panel composed of Outside Directors and Outside Audit and Supervisory Board members. Confidentiality rules should also be established to protect whistleblowers from any adverse consequences.

The Company has established a system to protect whistleblowers in accordance with internal guidelines on whistleblowing. In addition to an internal whistleblowing contact point, the Company has established an external whistleblowing contact point with an external lawyer's office and the parent company. The Audit and Supervisory Committee, an organization independent of management, has also been established as a contact point for whistleblowing.

[Principle 2-6 Performing a function as an asset owner of the corporate pension] As investments in corporate pension reserves can impact the stable asset formation of employees and the financial status of the listed companies, it's important for these companies to make efforts in personnel affairs and operations. This includes systematic appointment and deployment of human resources with appropriate capabilities engaged in investments so that the corporate pension can function as an asset owner and strengthen its expertise in investment. This includes stewardship activities, such as monitoring of investment managers. Additionally, the listed companies should disclose the details of these efforts and ensure appropriate management of any conflict of interest between them and the beneficiaries of

# corporate pensions.

The Company has established a plan to participate in a defined-benefit corporate pension fund as a defined-benefit plan. The fund in which our group's employees participate is a multi-employer EPF operated by a conference of representatives organized by participating companies. Therefore, the asset owners are the Company and all participating companies. Currently, all assets are managed in a general account where the principal and minimum rate of return are guaranteed by life insurance companies. As a result, the Company does not need to function as an asset owner of a corporate pension.

#### Section 3:

#### **Ensuring Appropriate Information Disclosure and Transparency**

# **[General Principle 3]**

The listed companies should comply with relevant laws and regulations when making information disclosures, but they should also strive to proactively provide information beyond what is required by laws and regulations. This includes financial information, such as their financial position and business results, and non-financial information, such as business strategies, issues, risks, and governance. The Board of Directors should recognize that the disclosed information will form the basis for constructive dialog with shareholders. Therefore, the information, particularly non-financial information, should be accurate, clear, and useful for information users.

The Company recognizes that information disclosure is one of the most important management issues and that it's essential to disclose appropriate information to gain understanding from our stakeholders. To put these views into practice, the Company provides various information sources such as the Company's website and the integrated report, actively disclosing not only the required disclosures based on laws and regulations but also other information (including non-financial information) deemed important for shareholders and other stakeholders. Also, the Company actively discloses additional information on its website to obtain a better understanding from stakeholders.

#### [Principle 3-1 Improvement In Information Disclosure]

In addition to complying with relevant laws and regulations, the listed companies should proactively disclose the following information (along with the disclosure matters specified by the principles of the Code) to enhance transparency, and fairness in decision-making, and ensure effective corporate governance:

- (i) Company objectives (e.g., business principles), business strategies, and business plans;
- (ii) Basic views and guidelines on corporate governance based on each of the principles of the Code;
- (iii) Policy and procedures for the Board of Directors to determine remuneration for the Management and Directors;
- (iv) Board of Directors' policies and procedures in the appointment and dismissal of the Management, and nomination of Director and auditor candidates;
- (v) Explanation of individual appointments and dismissals of the Management and individual nominations of Director and auditor candidates conducted by the Board of Directors in light of the above-mentioned (iv).
- (i) The Company's corporate philosophy and business strategies are stated on its corporate website. Additionally, business strategies and plans are explained to stakeholders, including shareholders, at financial results briefings and other meetings. The Company published three pillars of its strategy, aimed at diversifying its profit structure- ((i) Increase traffic from other than BUY, (ii) Step into the Production Support, and (iii) Try technology licensing sales). (https://corp.zozo.com/en/ir-info/management-policy/growth-strategy/)

Furthermore, the Sustainability Statement outlines the Four Key Actions, including specific earnings opportunities in the short-term and mid-to long-term. The Company aims to achieve these goals by 2030. Details can be found in the following.

(https://corp.zozo.com/en/sustainability/policy/)

- (ii) The basic policy towards corporate governance is disclosed through the Company's website on materials such as the corporate governance report, securities report, etc
- (iii) The maximum amount of remuneration for the Company's Directors (excluding Directors who are members of the Audit Committee) is determined by a resolution of the General Meeting of Shareholders. With respect to the specific form of the remuneration/ compensation system, based on the results of deliberations by the Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee, which is mainly composed of Outside Directors, and its report, the Company has established a remuneration/ compensation system for Executive Directors with the aim of promoting and achieving sustainable, mid-to long-term improvement of the Company's corporate value and functioning as a sound incentive for such Directors. Remuneration/ compensation for the eligible Directors consists of fixed and performance-linked remuneration/ compensation. Fixed remuneration consists of cash

only, and performance-linked compensation consists of two types of compensation: cash bonus and stock compensation. Regarding the percentage of each remuneration/ compensation, the percentage of Performance-linked compensation will exceed the percentage of fixed remuneration. Among performance-linked compensation, the percentage of stock compensation exceeds the proportion of cash bonus. The following table shows the types, purposes, and outlines of each type of remuneration and compensation.

Types of Remuneration/Compensation		Objectives and Overview
Fixed	Cash remuneration	Fixed remuneration for the performance of duties in accordance with the position and its responsibilities, etc., shall be determined and paid during the term of office.
Performance-linked	Cash bonus (Short-term incentive compensation)	Performance-linked compensation for the achievement of short-term performance targets for each fiscal year  • The specific amount to be paid is determined in accordance with the degree of achievement of the performance targets set in a fiscal year, the position and its responsibilities, etc., and is paid periodically during the term of office.  • The amount of GMV as the growth potential of the business and the consolidated operating profit as the profitability will be set as the criteria for determining the payment of compensation.
	Stock compensation (Mid-to long-term incentive compensation)	Performance-linked compensation to promote management that emphasizes mid-to long-term improvement in corporate value and shareholder value.  •Compensation is in the form of restricted stock, and the percentage of the release of the restriction is determined in accordance with the continuous service on the Company's Board of Directors, the Company's stock price growth rate for the latest three fiscal years, the consolidated operating profit and the valuation score granted by the ESG rating provider that the Company determines. (The stock price growth rate is compared with that of about 27 benchmark companies.)  •In principle, it will be issued in one time for the first year according to the position and responsibilities of the Director.

The process for determining the remuneration/ compensation of Executive Directors is established under the Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee. After deliberation by the Committee, the remuneration/ compensation for each Executive Director is determined by a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors, considering business performance, management details, and economic conditions based on the Committee's report. Only fixed remuneration is paid to non-executive Directors, which includes Outside Directors according to the established policy. The Company does not have a retirement allowance system for Directors, except for payments that were determined prior to the abolition of such a program. Regarding stock-based compensation, the Company will include a provision in the restricted stock allotment agreement, which is concluded between the eligible Directors and the Company, stating that the Company shall acquire all or part of the Allotted Shares without any consideration if an eligible Director resigns from their position as a Director of the Company before the transfer restriction term expires, for reasons other than those recognized as legitimate by the Company's Board of Directors or certain other reasons such as misconduct. Additionally, the Company will include a clause that permits eligible Directors to return all or part of the restricted stock, or its cash equivalent, to the Company without any consideration if certain events occur, such as errors in the figures used to calculate the rate of release of the transfer restriction, and the Company deems it appropriate. The maximum remuneration paid to Audit and Supervisory Committee members shall be set after a resolution is adopted at the General Meeting of Shareholders. The remuneration paid to each Audit and Supervisory Committee member shall be based on discussions between the Directors who are Audit and Supervisory Committee members.

(iv) The policy and procedures for designating candidates as Directors are implemented comprehensively, and the following items: (1)-(3) are taken into consideration. The Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee deliberates on the designation of candidates for Directors (who are not the Audit and Supervisory Committee members) and submits a report to the Board of Directors. The Company considers Outside Directors to be independent because they should have no special personal relationship, capital ties, or other interests between them and the Company, as required by the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The reasons for appointing candidates as Directors are stated in the notice of convocation of the Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders and the securities report. The dismissal of Directors is resolved at the General Meeting of Shareholders, following approval by the Board of Directors, as an agenda item of the General Meeting of

Shareholders, when there are material violations of laws and regulations/articles of incorporation in the execution of duties and significant damage to the corporate value of the company group.

- (1) Selecting a Director who is not an Audit and Supervisory Committee member:
  In accordance with our corporate philosophy and business strategies, we seek a candidate who can contribute to the Company's growth and the whole fashion industry. The ideal candidate should possess the ability to lead their divisions while collaborating with other officers, comply with all applicable laws and regulations, and uphold corporate ethics. We select and appoint Directors based on comprehensive criteria that include the gualifications mentioned above.
- (2) Selecting a Director who is an Audit and Supervisory Committee member
  To ensure the Company's growth and uphold our corporate philosophy and business strategies, we
  seek a candidate who can execute and supervise the Director's duties, prevent internal violations of
  laws and regulations, enhance our Company's credibility by managing a sound business, and
  maintain an objective and neutral standpoint. Additionally, the ideal candidate should have the
  ability to manage the Company's soundness and improve our corporate value.
- (3) Selecting an Outside Director
  To ensure the independence of our Outside Directors, we adhere to the independence
  requirements established by the Tokyo Stock Exchange. We also seek a candidate with a wealth of
  knowledge and experience who can serve as a leader in various fields, such as law, finance,
  accounting, and the technology industries. The ideal candidate should be capable of assessing the
  reality of the issues we face and providing advising and supervising abilities and sharing their
  opinions with the Management. Based on our comprehensive criteria for the nomination, including
  the qualifications mentioned above, we select and appoint the independent Directors.
- (v) In the nomination of new candidates for Directors and the dismissal of these positions, we will provide a detailed explanation of the reasons in the reference material of the General Meeting of the Shareholders.

### <Supplementary Principle>

3-1 ① These disclosures (including disclosures based on laws and regulations) should be valuable for investors, and the Board of Directors should ensure that information is not boilerplate or lacking in detail.

We strive to disclose information in a manner that is easy to understand, promptly and accurately, and in a variety of ways that are easily accessible to the public.

3-1 ② In consideration of the increasing number of overseas shareholders, companies should provide disclosure information in English to the extent possible. In particular, the listed companies on the Prime Market of the TSE, should disclose and provide all required information in English among our disclosure documents.

Considering the proportion of foreign investors among all investors of the Company, we provide financial results briefing materials, notice of convocation of the General Meeting of Shareholders, and related materials in English. Additionally, we offer live streaming of the financial results briefing on our website and conduct conference calls in both English and Japanese to provide information to our international stakeholders.

3-1 ③ The listed companies should disclose their initiatives for sustainability when disclosing their management strategy. They should also provide clear and specific information on human capital and intellectual property, considering the alignment of these with their management strategy and management issues. In particular, companies listed on the Prime Market of the TSE should collect and analyze data related to the impact of climate change on their business activities, earnings opportunities, and losses, enhance the quality and quantity of disclosures based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) or equivalent systems.

The Company's Sustainability Statement is "Fashion Connects and Leads Us to a Sustainable Future," and

specific initiatives are outlined in Principle 2-3. The growth strategy aims to establish a profit structure that does not rely solely on the total amount of Gross Merchandise Value but multiplies profit drivers for sustainable growth. The Company aims to create a new fashion world that integrates fashion, technology, and people and improves the environment and society.

The Company also addresses the ESG issue in the fashion industry, such as mass production and the mass disposal of apparel, by utilizing technology to support production in the industry and realizing sustainable growth through a favorable cycle of initiatives to increase earnings and realize sustainability (nonfinancial information).

#### Investment in human capital

The Company believes that its basis for growth is the active participation of human resources with a diverse range of skills, abilities, and individualities and an increase in the sense of well-being and tighter connections among employees resulting from investment in human capital to contribute to corporate value, development, and growth.

The Company engages in the development of human resources and education and training on a company-wide basis by offering training programs concerning compliance and the promotion of diversity. The company offers training for professional technical staff, such as engineers and designers, to upgrade their skills, and makes educational investments ranging from beginners to high-skilled human resources. In addition, the Company actively invests in supporting qualification acquisition and the voluntary learning of employees by expanding the scope of recipients of the "Daily progress allowance", which had been paid monthly to office employees, to all employees.

The Company also considers benefit programs as part of the important investment in human capital, and its acquisition rate of paid leaves stood at 85.3%.

To further support the active participation of individual employees with the lifestyle being diverse, the housing allowance, whose recipients and amount depend on departments and residential areas, has been changed to the "Housing remote allowance," which expanded the beneficiaries to all employees and equalized the paid amount without exception. The Company also establishes welfare programs, such as a shortened working hour system for families and sick leave and enhances employees' satisfaction towards a workplace and opportunities to show their skills, building an environment that promotes diverse and flexible work styles.

#### Investment in intangible assets

The Company considers investment in intangible assets, including intellectual properties, as a key business strategy for enhancing corporate value. To achieve this strategy, we have established 3 significant pillars and introduced an "investment and utilization strategy" for major intangible assets. We will continue to proactively invest in these assets to realize our business objectives.

#### 1 Increase traffic from other than "BUY"

The Company intends to utilize its measurement technology to diagnose the user's bone structure and skin tone, which will then be linked to an outfit model. The data generated from this process will be used to personalize items, colors, and sizes that are tailored to the user's preferences. Furthermore, the Company plans to offer personalized product information and user interfaces optimized for each user by leveraging a vast array of information assets, including browsing data and purchase history. In order to promote personalization with intellectual property rights, the Company is investing in intellectual properties that protect its measurement technology, inventions, and designs created from R&D.

#### ② Step into the "Production Support"

The Company has taken on a variety of unprecedented businesses, including operating the private brand "ZOZO", MSP business that offers items in multiple sizes designed by brands on ZOZOTOWN using body shape data obtained from ZOZOSUIT, and D2C business that produces fashion brands with individual influencers. Leveraging the expertise gained through these ventures in demand analysis and production base, the Company will now offer production support, planning, and proposals for brands. This creates a system where the Company and brands cooperate in planning, production, inventory management, and sales. The Company plans to proactively invest in the intellectual properties related to the production support

# ③ Try "technology licensing sales"

The Company aims to license its measurement technology and related intellectual property rights, know-how, and measurement data to industries beyond fashion. To achieve this, the Company is actively

acquiring intellectual property rights in potential countries and investing in intellectual properties, including the purchase of ideas related to body shape measurement technology. To support this strategy, the Company established ZOZO NEXT Inc., a professional organization dedicated to innovation and R&D, with a focus on enhancing collaboration with overseas subsidiaries to achieve global innovation. The Company consolidates the intellectual properties resulting from R&D at each base and manages them through a specialized unit. The Company also actively contributes its own vast data and technology to the academic and industrial sectors and promotes R&D to develop a more convenient platform and enhance services.

• Impact of risk and earnings opportunities related to climate change on business activities and earnings of the Company

In February 2022, our group agreed with the TCFD (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures) to collect and analyze data on the impact of climate-related risks and earnings opportunities on its business activities and earnings. As a result, the group discloses its governance, strategies, risk management, and indicators and goals on climate-related risks and opportunities based on TCFD proposals. (https://corp.zozo.com/en/sustainability/environment/)

Additionally, the Company is engaged in implementing the 2030 Carbon Neutrality Declaration (\*1), which is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Company's business activities (scope 1 and 2) to net zero by 2030, and Net Zero (\*2), which is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the entire supply chain, including those from counterparties (scope 3), to net zero by 2050. In addition, in March 2023, we submitted a commitment letter to the SBT Initiative, an organization that certifies "Science Based Targets", which are greenhouse gas emission reduction targets that are scientifically consistent with the targets set by the Paris Agreement. The company has set a target to achieve the "1.5°C target" of the Paris Agreement and applied for SBT accreditation.

Scope 1: Direct greenhouse gas emissions from an operator (fuel burning and industry process)

Scope 2: Indirect greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the use of electricity, and heat and steam supplied by other companies

Scope 3: Indirect greenhouse gas emissions other than scope 1 and scope 2 (greenhouse gas emissions from other companies related to activities of the operator)

- \*1 2030 Carbon Neutrality Declaration was announced in February 2022.
- \*2 Net Zero was announced in January 2023.

#### [Principle 3-2 External Auditors]

External Accounting Auditors and listed companies should recognize the responsibility they owe to shareholders and investors and take appropriate steps to ensure the proper execution of audits.

The Company coordinates with related Divisions such as the Audit and Supervisory Committee, the Finance and Accounting Division, the Corporate Planning Office, and the Internal Audit Office to ensure an audit schedule and audit system for the proper audits by the external Accounting Auditor.

# <Supplementary Principle>

- 3-2 ① The Audit and Supervisory Board should ensure, at a minimum, the following:
- (i) Establish standards for the appropriate selection of Outside Auditors and the proper evaluation of Outside Auditors
- (ii) Verify whether the Outside Auditors possess the required independence and expertise to fulfill their responsibilities.
- (i) The Audit and Supervisory Committee has established the "Standard on the Evaluation of Accounting Auditors," which is used to assess and evaluate the execution of duties by the Accounting Auditor through the progress of the audit and audit report. When determining the details of the proposal for the appointment and reappointment of an Accounting Auditor, the Audit and Supervisory Committee comprehensively assesses the expertise, independence, quality management system, and depth of understanding of business activities. This is done through discussions with the executive department and by referencing the operating guidelines for corporate auditors on establishing the criteria for evaluating and appointing an Accounting Auditor published by the Japan Audit and Supervisory Board Members Association. If the Company deems it necessary to dismiss or not reappoint an Accounting Auditor due to problems in the execution of duties by an audit firm, this is set as a subject of the General Meeting of Shareholders by a

resolution adopted by the Audit and Supervisory Committee, in accordance with Article 399-2, Paragraph 3, Item 2 of the Companies Act.

- (ii) Based on the operating guidelines for corporate auditors on establishing the criteria for evaluating and appointing an Accounting Auditor, the Audit and Supervisory Committee members receive timely reports from the Accounting Auditor on audit planning, the progress of audits, the system to ensure the appropriateness of the execution of duties, and the criteria for quality management of audits. The Audit and Supervisory Committee then examines these reports for a comprehensive evaluation.
- 3-2 ② The Board of Directors and the Audit and Supervisory Board should, at minimum, ensure the following:
- (i) Provide adequate time for high-quality audits;
- (ii) Ensure that external Accounting Auditors have access, such as interviews, to the Management including the CEO and the CFO;
- (iii) Ensure adequate coordination between external Accounting Auditors and Audit and Supervisory Board members (including attendance at the Audit and supervisory Board Meeting), the Internal Audit Office, and Outside Directors;
- (iv) Ensure the structure of the company in the event that an external Accounting Auditor discovers fraud and requires an appropriate response or points out deficiencies or problems.
- (i) The Company ensures that sufficient time is allocated for audits by consulting with the external Accounting Auditor prior to the audit.
- (ii) The Company provides opportunities for the external Accounting Auditors to interview the Management, including the CEO and CFO, whether or not such requests are made.
- (iii) The Company promotes the cooperation between external Accounting Auditors and Audit and Supervisory Committee members through accounting audits and quarterly reviews. In addition, the Full-time Audit and Supervisory Committee member cooperates with the Internal Auditing Office to exchange information as needed. The external Accounting Auditors are able to work directly with the Internal Audit Office, which enables the external Accounting Auditors to access any information they require at any time.
- (iv) In the event that the external Accounting Auditors discover any fraud and request appropriate action, or point out deficiencies or problems, the system is designed so that each Director in charge, under the direction of the Representative Director, takes the lead in investigating and correcting the situation and reports the results of the investigation. In addition, the Audit and Supervisory Committee, led by a full-time Audit and Supervisory Committee member, collaborates with the Internal Audit Office and other related departments to investigate and correct the situation.

#### Section 4:

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

# **[General Principle 4]**

In order to promote sustainable corporate growth and increase corporate value over the midto long-term, enhance profitability, and improve capital efficiency while fulfilling its fiduciary responsibility and accountability to shareholders, the Board of Directors should appropriately fulfill its roles and responsibilities. These include:

- (1) Showing the big picture of the corporate strategy
- (2) Establishing an environment that supports appropriate risk-taking by the Management
- (3) Carrying out effective oversight of Directors and the Management members, including Executive Officers, from an independent and objective standpoint. These roles and responsibilities should be fulfilled equally and appropriately regardless of the form of corporate organization, whether it's a company with an Audit and Supervisory Board (where some of these duties are performed by Audit and Supervisory Board members), a company with Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee or a company with Audit and Supervisory Committee, or any other form of corporate organization.

The Company's Board of Directors deliberates as necessary for the purpose of achieving the sustainable growth of the Company and mid-to long-term increases in corporate value. Given the fiduciary responsibility and accountability to shareholders, the Management shares information on the direction of corporate strategies, the mid-to long-term vision, strategies through timely disclosure and information on the Company's corporate website, and quarterly financial results briefings that are broadcasted by live streaming (in Japanese and English).

Rules including Board of Directors Guideline, Executive Officers Guideline Organizational Guideline, Guideline on Division of Responsibilities, and Job Authority Guideline, are established to support appropriate risk-taking by the Management. Also, the management and execution, and duties and responsibilities, are separated clearly.

Regarding the framework for overseeing the Management members and Directors, the Company has 11 Directors in total, 8 of whom are non-executive Directors (of whom 6 are Outside Directors). They provide opinions as appropriate to the Management from external perspectives and oversee the Management and Directors from objective points of view.

All three Audit and Supervisory Committee members are appointed as Outside Directors, and all Outside Directors are registered as independent Officers with the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Outside Directors continue exchanging opinions with the Management and appropriately expressing opinions from external perspectives to fulfill their roles and duties in corporate governance.

#### [Principle 4-1 Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors (1)]

The Board of Directors should establish the corporate goals (business principles, etc.) and show the strategic direction as a major aspect of its roles and responsibilities. It should also engage in constructive discussions with respect to specific business strategies and business plans and

ensure that major operational decisions are based on the Company's strategic direction.

The Company's Board of Directors deliberates as appropriate on specific management strategies and plans to realize the corporate and management philosophy, "Inspire the world. Deliver joy every day". The Company aims to realize a better future by connecting fashion with respect for individuality around the world.

#### <Supplementary Principle>

4-1 ① The Board of Directors should clearly specify its own decisions as well as both the scope and content of the matters delegated to the management and disclose a summary thereof.

The Company has a fundamental principle regarding the allocation of authority between the Board of Directors and the Management. It states that matters to be judged and determined by the Board of Directors shall be matters exclusively determined by the Board based on the laws and regulations and their interpretation.

Other matters shall be delegated to the Management's decision-making process with the assumption of

reporting to the Board of Directors. Also, according to provisions of Article 399-13, Paragraph 6 of the Companies Act, all or a part of the important execution of duties may be delegated to the Directors after a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors. Concretely, it determines the authority provided by the resolution, deliberation, and approval for decision-making bodies and decision makers, such as the Board of Directors, Management Meetings, Representative Director, President, Executive Officers, and General Managers, based on the authority approval standards.

4-1 ② The Board of Directors and the Management members should strive to achieve the mid-term business plan, recognizing it as a commitment to shareholders. If the Company fails to achieve the plan, it is important to thoroughly analyze the reasons for the failure and the actions taken by the Company. Shareholders should be provided with a clear and appropriate explanation, and the findings should be reflected in a plan for the following years.

The Company does not have a mid-term business plan committed to specific numerical goals. However, we have established a mid-term growth vision consisting of three pillars to the strategy. It clarifies the business fields we focus on, and we make our best efforts to realize the vision. Furthermore, we periodically analyze the reasons for the discrepancy between single-year forecasts and actual results. We disclose and explain this analysis to stakeholders, including shareholders, at the financial results briefing and other meetings.

4-1 ③ The Board of Directors should proactively engage in setting up and operating a succession planning process for the CEO and other key executives, based on the company's objectives, management philosophy, and specific business strategies. They should also provide appropriate oversight to ensure that potential candidates for successors are systematically trained with sufficient time and resources.

The development of potential successors to manage the Company is crucial for ensuring its sustained growth in the future. To cultivate individuals with the necessary values, abilities, and behavioral characteristics, the company group will formulate and implement the vision, plans, and procedures for the next generation of leadership personnel and the selection process for successors. These plans and procedures will be based on discussions held at the Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee.

#### [Principle 4-2 Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors (2)]

The Board of Directors has a responsibility to create a culture that encourages the Management to take appropriate risks. To fulfill this responsibility, the Board should actively solicit proposals from the Management that promote healthy entrepreneurship. The Board of Directors should carefully evaluate these proposals in an independent and objective manner to ensure accountability and facilitate timely decision-making by the Management once the plans are approved. Additionally, the Board of Directors should ensure that the remuneration of the Management includes incentives that reflect mid-to long-term business results and potential risks, as well as encourage healthy entrepreneurship.

The Company considers, as the Board of Directors, it important to provide an environment that supports appropriate risk-taking by the Management. We have encouraged the creation of new business ideas that are not typically seen in the fashion e-commerce industry, such as the introduction of innovative technology devices like ZOZOSUIT, ZOZOMAT, and ZOZOGLASS, which allow for advanced body, foot, and face measurements. The Board of Directors welcomes such challenges and supports the Management's business execution based on a sound entrepreneurial spirit. We conduct thorough and objective deliberation and analysis of such proposals before making swift decisions. This approach helps us build a supportive structure for the Management to encourage and promote healthy entrepreneurship. The Company has resolved to revise the remuneration/compensation system for the Management to promote sustainable growth and serve as a healthy incentive. This system will pay remuneration/compensation based on the achievement of short-term and mid-to long-term business results and efforts and results in increasing corporate value. This system also includes fixed and performance-linked compensation. (For more details, see Principle 3-1, "Improvement in Information Disclosure (iii) Policy and procedures for the Board of Directors to determine remunerations for the Management and Directors.")

# <Supplementary Principle>

4-2 ① In order to ensure that the Management's remuneration serves as a healthy incentive for sustainable growth, the Board of Directors should establish a remuneration plan based on objective and transparent procedures for determining specific remuneration. This plan should take into account the proportion of remuneration linked to mid-to long-term business results and the ratio of remuneration in cash and company stock.

When it comes to remuneration/ compensation for the Management of the Company, the Board of Directors determines the remuneration/ compensation for Directors individually within the limits of the total remuneration/ compensation for Directors that are agreed upon at the General Meeting of Shareholders. The decision is made after the Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee holds discussions and conducts a comprehensive examination of business results, management details, and economic conditions. Additionally, in order to promote sustainable growth and serve as a healthy incentive, the Company has designed a remuneration/ compensation system for Directors to realize those points. This system will pay remuneration/ compensation for achieving business results in the short to mid-to long-term based on the Company's business strategy, efforts, and the increase in corporate value, including both fixed and performance-linked compensation. (For more details, see Principle 3-1, "Improvement in Information Disclosure (iii) Policy and procedures for the Board of Directors to determine remunerations for the Management and Directors.")

4-2 ② To ensure the company's long-term sustainability and increase its corporate value, the Board of Directors should establish a fundamental policy for sustainability initiatives. This policy should take into account investments in human capital and intellectual property so that the companies effectively oversee the allocation of management resources, including human capital and intellectual property. Additionally, the Board of Directors should supervise the execution of the company's business portfolio strategy to ensure that it contributes to the company's sustainable growth.

As outlined in Principle 2-3, the Company has established a Sustainability Statement as its fundamental policy for sustainability initiatives. We are committed to addressing our own and the fashion industry's challenges by combining fashion with technology. The allocation of management resources and execution of business portfolio strategies are regularly reported at Board Meetings, allowing for prompt adjustments to the strategic action plan. An operational structure has been put in place to ensure effective supervision by the Board of Directors.

#### [Principle 4-3 Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors (3)]

As an essential aspect of its duties and responsibilities, the Board of Directors must exercise effective oversight of the Management and Directors in an independent and objective manner. Additionally, the Board of Directors should conduct assessments of the company's performance and reflect it in the appointment of the Management. Furthermore, the Board of Directors must engage in oversight of activities to ensure the timely and accurate disclosure of information, establish appropriate internal control and risk management systems, and handle any potential conflicts of interest that may arise between the Company and its related parties, including the Management and controlling shareholders.

The Company recognizes that one of the key responsibilities of the Board of Directors is to oversee the Management and Directors in an independent and objective manner. To enhance the Board of Directors' effectiveness and identify any issues, the Company evaluates the performance of each Director annually. During Board Meetings, Executive Directors provide reports on their operations and progress, enabling the Board of Directors to supervise the Management. Remuneration/ compensation for Directors is determined based on advice from the Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee, which considers business results, operations, and economic conditions. The Company has adopted an Executive Officer system, which delegates some business execution authority to Executive Officers so that they can facilitate more dynamic decision-making and allow the Board to focus on oversight.

A person in charge of information disclosure has been appointed to ensure timely and appropriate disclosure of information, and an appropriate disclosure structure has been established. To maintain appropriate control over transactions among related parties, the Company surveys all officers of

the Company and its subsidiaries to check for any such transactions.

Additionally, the Company appropriately handles potential conflict-of-interest transactions with related parties, including the Management and controlling shareholders, in accordance with the Guideline to ensure the fairness of transactions with the parent company group.

# <Supplementary Principle>

4-3 ① The Board of Directors must ensure that the appointment and dismissal of the Management adhere to highly transparent and fair procedures, as well as accurately reflect the evaluation of the Company's performance results

The Company follows the procedures outlined in Principle 3-1 (iv) for appointing and dismissing the Management members, which are the same as those for appointing and dismissing Directors. When appointing Outside Directors, the Company adheres to a fundamental policy that requires the person to have no direct interest in the Company's CEO or Directors and to maintain a degree of independence that ensures no potential conflict of interest in the Company's general shareholders. The Company has established a structure for the appointment and dismissal of the Management members, which involves highly fair and transparent procedures, including seeking advice from the Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee in accordance with its criteria for nominations.

4-3 ② The Board of Directors should allocate adequate time and resources to the appointment of a highly capable CEO through objective, timely, and transparent procedures, recognizing that the CEO's appointment and dismissal are critical and strategic decisions for the company.

The Board of Directors engages in discussions and makes appropriate decisions regarding the appointment of the CEO, understanding that the CEO should possess the leadership skills necessary to achieve our corporate philosophy, business strategies, and sustainable growth goals. Additionally, the Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee reviews the appointment to further strengthen our governance system.

4-3 ③ The Board of Directors should establish objective, timely, and transparent procedures for dismissing a CEO in case of inadequate function execution, considering a fair evaluation of the company's business results.

In such cases where it is objectively determined that the CEO has failed to properly execute their duties resulting in significant violations of laws and regulations or a remarkable impairment of the corporate value of the company group, the Board of Directors and the Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee shall thoroughly deliberate and make resolutions regarding the dismissal of the CEO.

4-3 ④ Internal controls and proactive company-wide risk management systems can ensure appropriate compliance and support risk-taking, and the Board of Directors should appropriately establish these systems, including for the entire group, and supervise their operation while utilizing the internal audit department.

The Company has established the Risk Management Guideline, and the ZOZO Group Risk Management Committee in order to appropriately manage risks. We regularly monitor the status of our internal risk management and submit necessary reports to the meetings to accurately recognize and identify assumed risks and then appropriately deal with them.

The Internal Audit Office works in collaboration with the Audit and Supervisory Committee members and Accounting Auditors to conduct site surveys and interviews with operational divisions in accordance with the annual internal audit plan. The Internal Audit Office also periodically reports the results of internal control evaluations to the Board of Directors, which helps to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of internal control, compliance, and other related components.

[Principle 4-4 Roles and Responsibilities of the Audit and Supervisory Board and Audit and Supervisory Board members]

The Audit and Supervisory Board and its members have a fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interests of the shareholders and should carry out their roles and responsibilities independently and

objectively. This includes auditing the performance of the Directors' duties, appointing, and dismissing Audit and Supervisory Board members and the external Auditors, and determining the remuneration of the Auditors. While the Audit and Supervisory Board's functions include "defensive functions," such as business and accounting audits, the Audit and Supervisory Board and its members should not interpret their role too narrowly. They should proactively exercise their rights and express their views at Board Meetings and to the Management in order to fully perform their duties.

The Company has nominated all three of the Audit and Supervisory Committee members as Outside Directors, selected for their wealth of experience and expert knowledge as a lawyer, certified public accountant, and licensed tax accountant. These members actively participate in Board Meetings and express their views to the Management, fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities to shareholders from an independent and objective standpoint.

# <Supplementary Principle>

4-4 ① The Audit and Supervisory Board is composed of more than 50% Outside Audit and Supervisory Board members, as required by the Companies Act. At least one full-time Audit and Supervisory Board member is also appointed. The Audit and Supervisory Board combines the independence of its Outside Audit and Supervisory Board members with the information-gathering power of the full-time members to increase its effectiveness in fully executing its roles and responsibilities.

Additionally, the Audit and Supervisory Board members or the Audit and Supervisory Board should ensure cooperation with Outside Directors to strengthen their ability to collect information without compromising their independence.

The Company has appointed all three Audit and Supervisory Committee members as Outside Directors, and one as a full-time Audit and Supervisory Committee member. The full-time Audit and Supervisory Committee member participates in important meetings, including Management Meetings, and actively expresses their opinions as an Audit and Supervisory Committee member, sharing information with other Audit and Supervisory Committee members. When necessary, they exchange opinions with Outside Directors (excluding Directors who are Audit and Supervisory Committee members) to promote cooperation.

# [Principle 4-5 Fiduciary Responsibilities of Directors and the Audit and Supervisory Board members]

While fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities to shareholders, the Directors, the Audit and Supervisory Board members, and the management of the company should ensure appropriate cooperation with stakeholders and act in the best interests of the company and the common interests of its shareholders

The Company ensures that it provides accurate and timely information required by all stakeholders. Moreover, any disclosure of highly important information is discussed at Board Meetings and executed based on the opinions of Outside Directors as well.

#### [Principle 4-6 Business Execution and Oversight of the Management]

The listed companies should consider appointing independent Directors who are not involved in business execution or closely tied to the Management, in order to ensure effective, objective oversight of the Management by the Board of Directors.

The Company recognizes the importance of effective and objective oversight of the management by the Board of Directors and acknowledges the need to appoint a sufficient number of Outside Directors to obtain advice from various perspectives, especially in the face of evolving business environments and potential expansion into new fields. Currently, the Company has appointed 8 non-executive Directors, 6 of whom are Outside Directors, to fulfill their corporate governance roles and responsibilities through dialog with the Management and expressing their views as necessary in their capacity as Outside Directors.

[Principle 4-7 Roles and Responsibilities of Independent Directors]
The listed companies are expected to utilize independent Directors effectively, taking into

consideration the following expectations regarding their roles and responsibilities:

- (i) Providing advice on business policies and improvements based on their knowledge and experience, with the aim of promoting sustainable corporate growth and increasing corporate value over the mid-to long term.
- (ii) Monitoring the management through important decision-making procedures at the Board Meeting, including the appointment and dismissal of the Management.
- (iii) Monitoring conflict of interest between the Company and the Management or controlling shareholders.
- (vi) Appropriately representing the voices of minority shareholders and other stakeholders in the Board Meeting, from a standpoint independent from the Management and controlling shareholders.

The independent Outside Directors of the Company have extensive knowledge and experience in management, law, accounting and finance, and technologies. They provide valuable advice to promote sustainable corporate growth. They monitor conflict of interest between the Company, the Management, and controlling shareholders from an independent standpoint and represent the voices of stakeholders in Board Meetings.

# [Principle 4-8 Effective Use of Independent Directors]

The aim of independent Outside Directors is to contribute to the sustainable growth of companies and increase corporate value over the mid-to long-term. Therefore, companies listed on the Prime Market of the TSE should appoint at least one-third of independent Outside Directors (or two independent Outside Directors in companies listed on other markets) with the appropriate qualities. However, if a company listed on the Prime Market of the TSE believes that it needs to appoint a majority of Directors as independent Outside Directors (or a company listed on other markets believes it needs to appoint at least one-third Director as independent Outside Directors) based on various factors such as industry, company size, business characteristics, organizational structures, and circumstances surrounding the company, it should appoint a sufficient number of independent Outside Directors.

The Company believes that appointing multiple independent Outside Directors is essential for contributing to sustainable corporate growth and increasing corporate value over the mid-to long-term. The Board of Directors comprises 11 members, which include 3 Executive Directors and 8 non-executive Directors, 6 of whom are Outside Directors. And Outside Directors constitute a majority of the Board of Directors. The Outside Directors are registered as independent Officers with the Tokyo Stock Exchange, and the Company believes that they are sufficiently independent.

# <Supplementary Principle>

4-8 ① To actively contribute to discussions at the Board Meeting, independent Outside Directors should exchange information and develop a shared awareness among themselves from an independent and objective standpoint. One way to achieve this is by holding regular meetings consisting solely of independent Outside officers.

As necessary, independent Outside Directors can have a meeting comprising only independent Outside Directors at any time, to enable the exchange of opinions based on independent, objective points of view.

4-8 ② The independent Outside Directors should aim to establish a communication framework with the Management and the Audit and Supervisory Board members or the Audit and Supervisory Board by appointing a lead independent Outside Director from among themselves.

The Company does not appoint a lead independent Outside Director but instead requests that independent Outside Directors attend Management Meetings to facilitate contact and coordination with the Management. Additionally, a semi-annual skull session is held between independent Outside Directors (excluding Directors who are Audit and Supervisory Committee members) and Audit and Supervisory Committee members for the purpose of communication and cooperation with independent

Outside Directors.

4-8 ③ Listed companies with controlling shareholders are required to appoint at least one-third of directors who are independent of the controlling shareholders on the board (or a majority for companies listed on the Prime Market of TSE), or establish a special committee comprising independent individuals, including independent Outside Directors, to examine significant transactions and actions that may present a conflict of interest between the controlling shareholders and minority shareholders.

The Company, which has controlling shareholders, has established guidelines called the "Guideline to ensure the fairness of transactions with the parent company group" to protect minority shareholders in transactions with controlling shareholders, and we operate our business in accordance with the quideline above. The Company has a policy to ensure that transactions with controlling shareholders comply with laws and regulations and are not subject to conditions that are unreasonably advantageous or disadvantageous to its group compared to the same or similar transactions conducted with a third party. These transactions are reasonably determined in light of contract conditions and market prices, as in transactions with other companies, and are executed after a thorough examination of whether their execution and conditions do not unreasonably impair the rights of minority shareholders. The Company's Board of Directors consists of 11 members, including 3 Executive Directors and 8 nonexecutive Directors, 6 of whom are Outside Directors, accounting for a majority of all Board members. Additionally, in the case that the Company's Board of Directors does not have a majority of independent Directors, the Company shall endeavor to establish a special committee to deliberate and review important transactions and actions with the controlling shareholder. Such an inter-group special committee is supposed to be composed of independent Directors, and the Company believes that the committee is sufficiently independent of the controlling shareholder.

[Principle 4-9 Standards and Qualifications for Independent Outside Directors' Independence] The Board of Directors should establish and disclose independence standards to ensure the effective independence of independent Directors, taking into consideration the independence criteria set by the financial instruments exchanges. The Board of Directors should endeavor to select independent Outside Director candidates who are expected to contribute to frank, active, and constructive discussions at the Board Meetings.

The Company selects independent Outside Directors based on the Article 2, Item 15, of the Companies Act and the independence criteria set by the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The Board of Directors selects independent Outside Director candidates who, the Board thinks, are independent of the Company and have administrative experience in the industry with an affinity for our business and their own knowledge to participate in constructive discussions at Board Meetings.

#### [Principle 4-10 Use of Optional Approach]

In adopting the most appropriate organizational structure (as stipulated by the Companies Act) that is suitable for a Company's specific characteristics, the listed companies should employ optional approaches, as necessary, to further enhance governance functions.

In addition to the statutory bodies, the Company has the Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee as an advisory body to the Board of Directors, chaired by an independent Outside Director. The ZOZO Group Risk Management Committee is also established within the company group to accurately recognize, identify, and manage risks associated with business activities. In addition, the Compliance Committee has been established to strengthen the legal compliance system, and the SDGs Promotion Committee has been established to promote management with an awareness of SDGs across the board. The Company will establish other optional bodies as needed to further enhance its governance function.

#### <Supplementary Principle>

4-10 ① If the listed companies are either a company with an Audit and Supervisory Board or a company with an Audit and Supervisory Committee and independent Outside Directors do not account for the majority of the Board of Directors, the listed company should establish

independent Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory committee consisting mainly of independent Outside Directors under the Board of Directors in order to strengthen the independence, objectivity, and accountability of the functions of the Board of the Directors on nominations (including succession plan) and remuneration of the Management members and Directors, and obtain appropriate involvement and advice including viewpoints of the diversity, such as gender, and skills from independent Outside Directors of these committees in the examination of specifically important matters, including nominations and remuneration. In particular, companies listed on the Prime Market of the TSE should fundamentally ensure that independent Outside Directors account for the majority of the members of these committees and disclose the view on the independence of the composition of the committee, authorities, functions, and other information.

Our Board members total 11, 3 Executive Directors and 8 non-executive Directors (6 of whom are independent Outside Directors). The majority of Board members are independent Outside Directors. In addition, the Nomination and Remuneration Consultatory Committee is established as an advisory body to the Board of Directors, which has a role to enhance the independence and objectivity of functions that the Board of Directors performs concerning the nomination and remuneration of Directors and the accountability of the Board of Directors. The committee consists of the majority of independent Outside Directors and is chaired by an independent Outside Director to maintain the independence of its composition. It is also authorized to discuss policies and standards concerning the appointment and dismissal of Directors, the succession plan for the Representative Director, and remuneration of Directors, as well as draft proposals submitted to the Board of Directors and to offer advice and recommendations to the Board of Directors. In determining the nomination and remuneration of Directors, including discussions and preparation of the draft for the skill matrix of Directors, the committee discusses and gives full consideration to the viewpoints regarding diversity, including gender and skill. In addition, information on deliberations is shared with the Audit and Supervisory Committee. We continuously improve the corporate governance system by further enhancing the independence, objectivity, and accountability of the functions of the Board of Directors in terms of the nomination and remuneration of Directors.

# [Principle 4-11 Prerequisites for Ensuring the Effectiveness of the Board of Directors and Audit and Supervisory Board]

The Board of Directors should strive to achieve a well-balanced composition in terms of knowledge, experience, and skills, in order to effectively fulfill its roles and responsibilities. The composition should also promote diversity in terms of gender, internationality, career, and age while maintaining an appropriate board size. When appointing members for the Audit and Supervisory Board, the company should consider individuals with appropriate experience and skills in finance, accounting, and legal affairs. Furthermore, at least one member of the Audit and Supervisory Board should possess sufficient expertise in finance and accounting. The Board of Directors should also aim to strengthen its function by regularly analyzing and evaluating the effectiveness of the Board as a whole.

The Company sufficiently acknowledges that diverse values give it the advantage to ensure its sustainable growth. Five female Directors are appointed to the current Board of Directors, which consists of 11 members. An attorney, a certified public accountant, and a licensed tax accountant with appropriate experience and skills in finance, accounting, and law are appointed to the Audit and Supervisory Committee.

Recognizing that the diverse viewpoints coming from sex, race, and nationality, as well as knowledge, experience, and ability, contribute to the progress of business, the Company will aim to build a Board of Directors that is balanced between diversity and appropriate size. We achieved the target included in the Four Key Actions toward the realization of the Sustainability Statement "Increase a percentage of female Directors to all members to 30% by 2030." in June 2023.

The Company conducts periodic questionnaires of all Directors to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the entire Board of Directors as stated in the Supplemental Principle 4-11③.

### <Supplementary Principle>

4-11 ① The Board of Directors should consider the appropriate balance between the knowledge, experience, and skills of the Board of Directors as a whole, diversity, and appropriate Board size based on the skills and other abilities required to achieve business strategies. The company should disclose the skills and other abilities of Directors in a suitable manner, taking into account the business environment and characteristics, such as the skill matrix that outlines the knowledge, experience, and skills of each Director, along with the policies and procedures for nominating Directors. In the nomination process, independent Outside Director candidates should have relevant management experience in other companies.

The Company's view on the appropriate balance between the knowledge, experience, and skills of the Board of Directors as a whole and on diversity and appropriate Board size is in line with Principle 3-1 (iv). To support this view, the Company has created a skill matrix that shows the knowledge, experience, and skills of each Director, which is disclosed on the Company's website (https://corp.zozo.com/en/sustainability/governance/).

In the future, the Company plans to consider adopting internal regulations and enhancing the Board of Directors system to further focus on the balance of knowledge, experience, abilities, diversity, and size of the Board of Directors as a whole. On the skills matrix, the Company lists corporate management and business strategy as important items, especially experiences in management at other companies in selecting independent Outside Directors.

4-11 ② Outside Directors, Outside Audit and Supervisory Board members, other Directors, and Audit and Supervisory Board members should devote sufficient time and effort to properly fulfill their respective roles and responsibilities. Therefore, for instance, if a Director or Audit and Supervisory Board member holds concurrent positions as a Director or Audit and Supervisory Board member of another listed company, the number of such positions should be limited to a reasonable range. Additionally, the listed companies should annually disclose the status of such concurrent positions.

The Company has established Authority Approval standards that require Directors to seek permission from the Board of Directors before assuming an officer position at another listed company (in case of more than three companies for Executive Directors and six companies for non-executive Directors). Furthermore, we conduct the survey to check on transactions involving related parties and the status of any concurrent positions held by our officers, as a part of our system to monitor transactions among related parties. The outcomes of these checks are included in the annual report materials presented at the General Meeting of Shareholders.

4-11 ③ Each year, the Board of Directors should analyze and evaluate its effectiveness as a whole, considering the relevant matters, including each Director's self-evaluations. A summary of the results should be disclosed.

Each year, the Company's Board of Directors analyzes and evaluates its effectiveness in fulfilling its duties, including the purposes, agendas, composition, discussions, operations, and the structure supporting them. The board of Directors examines issues and identifies measures to address them, implementing appropriate actions based on the analysis and evaluation results.

The following presents the results of the Board of Directors analysis and evaluation of its effectiveness in executing its duties for the fiscal year that ended in March 2024.

#### 1. Method to evaluate effectiveness

We conducted a questionnaire about the effectiveness of the Board of Directors with all Directors, aggregated and organized the results, and discussed issues and measures for further enhancement of the effectiveness of the Board of Directors at the Board Meeting.

#### 2. Overview of results of analysis and evaluation

We conducted a questionnaire with all Directors to gather their feedback on the purposes, agendas, composition, discussions, and operations of the Board of Directors. Based on their responses, we confirmed that they generally provided comprehensive and highly positive evaluations of these aspects. It was also

evaluated that there was an improvement in the discussion between Directors concerning the management strategy and issues from the mid-to long-term viewpoints, which the Board of Directors had confirmed as an issue after the results of the evaluation of the Board of Directors' effectiveness for the fiscal year ended March 2022, by setting more effective themes for the Board Meetings for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024.

Additionally, there was a constructive opinion on how to utilize the knowledge of Outside Directors in order to realize better discussion on management strategies and issues from a mid-to long-term perspective.

#### 3. For the future

At the regular Board Meeting held in April 2024, the Board of Directors engaged in active discussions to enhance its effectiveness, taking into account the analysis and evaluation results mentioned above. As a result, the Board of Directors confirmed its policies to update the set of themes for and the frequency and method of discussion about the management strategy and issues from mid-to long-term viewpoints and to make efforts to ensure the further revitalization of discussions and the implementation of discussion results. Through the operation and improvement based on these policies, the Board of Directors enhances its effectiveness and increases corporate value.

#### [Principle 4-12 Active Deliberations by the Board of Directors]

The Board of Directors should promote an atmosphere for the open and constructive dialog to facilitate the exchange of ideas and should welcome the submission of proposals and matters by Outside Directors.

The company actively engages in question-and-answer sessions and encourages the exchange of opinions among Outside Directors regarding all matters to be resolved and reported at Board Meetings. Additionally, all attendees of the Board Meetings actively participate in exchanging opinions on the proposals presented at the meetings.

#### <Supplementary Principle>

- 4-12 ① The Board of Directors should ensure the following to enhance the operation of Board Meetings and facilitate active deliberations:
- (i)Sufficient distribution of materials for Board Meetings ahead of the scheduled date;
- (ii) Provision of information to Directors from the company in addition to the Board Meeting materials(if necessary, it needs to be organized and analyzed in an easily understandable manner:
- (iii) Determination of the schedule for Board Meetings during the current year and identification of the assumed agenda items in advance;
- (vi) Appropriate setting of the number of agenda items and the frequency of Board Meetings; and
- (v) Allocation of sufficient time for deliberations.

To encourage active discussions on the day of the meeting, the Company distributes meeting materials at least three business days prior to the meeting. We make an annual schedule of Board Meetings based on dates when all Directors are available to attend. In addition, the schedule includes a description of the items to be discussed, if any, and the amount of time required for discussion. Agenda items deliberated at the Board Meeting are fundamentally those of the Management Meeting, and Directors participate in the Management Meeting ((by non-executive Directors voluntarily), and Directors have an opportunity to know the details of the proposals and process of discussions in advance.

#### [Principle 4-13 Information Gathering and Support Structure]

In order to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, Directors and Audit and Supervisory Board members should proactively collect information and, as necessary, request the company to provide them with additional information. Also, the listed companies should establish a supporting structure for Directors and Audit and Supervisory Board members, including providing sufficient staff. The Board of Directors and the Audit and supervisory Board members should verify whether the information requested by them is provided smoothly.

The Company confirms the contents of any materials in advance, and if there is insufficient content, the Directors will request additional information as needed. Furthermore, the Company has established a support system for Directors, particularly for newly appointed Outside Directors, to enhance their understanding of the Company's corporate culture and ensure full information is shared within the organization through the Board of Directors Administration Office and the officers in charge of the Board of

Directors. Additionally, we have fostered a corporate culture where Directors regularly exchange information and opinions with one another on a daily basis.

#### <Supplementary Principle>

4-13 ① Directors, including Outside Directors, should request the company to provide them with any additional information deemed necessary to contribute to transparent, fair, timely, and decisive decision-making. Furthermore, Audit and Supervisory Board members, including Outside Audit and Supervisory Board members, should appropriately collect information, including utilizing their statutory investigative powers.

The Company's Board of Directors Administration Office confirms the materials for Board Meetings in advance, and Directors can request additional information as necessary if any content is missing.

4-13 ② Directors and members of the Audit and Supervisory Board should consider seeking the advice of external specialists at the company's expense when deemed necessary.

The Company's internal guidelines stipulate that if the Company receives advice from outside experts as necessary, it may charge such expenses to the Company.

4-13 ③ The listed companies should ensure that the Internal Audit Office, Directors, and Audit and Supervisory Board members cooperate effectively by establishing a reporting structure where the Internal Audit Office reports directly to the Board of Directors and Audit and Supervisory Board to fulfill their functions. Furthermore, these companies should take measures to provide adequate information to Outside Directors and Outside Audit and Supervisory Board members. For instance, they could appoint a responsible individual within the company who would handle such requests for information and ensure that they are appropriately processed.

The Internal Audit Office conducts fair and objective audits of the Company and its subsidiaries periodically and as needed. The results of these audits, including any identified issues, are reported directly to the Representative Director, Board of Directors, and Audit and Supervisory Committee. Instructions for improvement are given to each department to ensure that appropriate measures are taken. Furthermore, although the Company has not assigned an individual to serve as a liaison and coordinate between Outside Directors, it has established a system that enables the provision of information regarding matters such as business problems to Outside Directors as needed. This is facilitated through a full-time Audit and Supervisory Committee member, etc.

Principle 4-14 Training for Directors and Audit and Supervisory Board members are crucial governance bodies in the listed companies, and they should strive to understand their roles and responsibilities deeply. They should also make efforts to acquire and update the necessary knowledge and skills. In this regard, the listed companies should provide suitable training opportunities to each Director and Audit and Supervisory Board member, along with financial support to cover associated expenses. The Board of Directors should ensure that these opportunities and support are provided appropriately.

The Company provides a comprehensive range of training opportunities to support all employees, including Directors, in acquiring and maintaining the knowledge required to perform their duties effectively. The Company provides opportunities for Directors to fulfill their roles by providing them with the information and knowledge necessary to supervise management, such as study sessions for Directors and the Management, and confirmation of the execution of duties by the Audit and Supervisory Committee members to Directors, for which expenses may be billed to the Company.

# <Supplementary Principle>

4-14 ① Upon assuming their positions, Directors and Audit and Supervisory Board members, including Outside Directors and Outside Audit and Supervisory Board members, should be provided with the opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge about the

Company's business, finances, organization, and other relevant matters, and to fully comprehend their expected roles and responsibilities, including legal liabilities. Additionally, incumbent Directors should have a continuing opportunity to renew and update their knowledge as needed.

Regarding group seminars and study meetings held by the organizations that our Directors belong to, diligent studies, such as acquiring new knowledge and appropriately updating that knowledge, will be conducted at the discretion of each individual, and the company will cover any associated expenses.

# 4-14 ② The listed companies should disclose their training policy for Directors and Audit and Supervisory committee members.

Regarding the training policy for Directors in accordance with Principle 4-14, training is provided as needed to enable them to fulfill their duties effectively. The policy ensures that they acquire the knowledge required to operate the business and keep abreast of changing information over time, with the aim of contributing to the growth of the Company and the fashion industry.

# Section 5: Dialog with Shareholders

# [General Principle 5]

The listed companies should engage in constructive dialog with shareholders, even outside of the General Meeting of Shareholders, to contribute to sustainable growth and increase corporate value over the mid-to long-term. During such dialog, the management and Directors, including Outside Directors, should listen to the voices of shareholders and pay attention to their interests and concerns. They should also explain business policies clearly and understandably to gain shareholders' support, and work towards developing a balanced understanding of the positions of shareholders and other stakeholders, and act accordingly.

The Company acknowledges the significance of active dialog with shareholders to achieve sustainable growth and improve corporate value over a mid-to long-term period. To facilitate a better understanding of our management strategy, the Company has established an IR team under the Director in charge of the IR section. We conduct financial results briefings four times a year, with simultaneous distribution on the web in English. During these briefings, our Management directly shares information on current situations and strategies for the future. Additionally, we participate in security companies' conferences and individual interview requests. Considering our shareholder distribution, we also engage in active dialog with our overseas investors through the Board member and the Department in charge of IR activities.

# [Principle 5-1 Policy for Constructive Dialog with Shareholders]

To promote sustainable growth and increase corporate value over the mid-to long-term, the listed companies should respond positively and reasonably to requests from shareholders to engage in dialog (IR Meetings). The Board of Directors should establish, approve, and disclose policies aimed at promoting constructive dialog with shareholders, including measures and organizational structures.

The Company assigns a Director, Executive Vice President as the Director in charge of IR, and the Strategic Planning and Development Department under the Corporate Planning Office as the section in charge of IR. We conduct financial results briefings every fiscal quarter, offering real-time, simultaneous streaming on the Web in both Japanese and English to ensure fair disclosure for the various investor classes. In addition, we actively engage in constructive communication with shareholders through one-on-one dialogs (meetings) with domestic and overseas investors, holding small meetings, and participation in conferences hosted by security companies, as well as direct visits to North America, Europe, and Asia to connect with investors. The attributes of investors, the number of meetings, the conditions of substantial shareholders, and the opinions and questions raised in the dialog are periodically reported at the Board Meetings. Furthermore, it is timely examined whether to add questions frequently raised in the dialog, and the details to the data disclosed or explanatory matters at the next financial results report in order to flexibly reflect the details of the dialogs with shareholders and investors in the disclosed data and explanatory matters. We actively engage in constructive dialogs with shareholders to achieve sustainable growth and increase corporate value for the mid-to long-term periods.

### <Supplementary Principle>

5-1 ① Management members, Directors (including Outside Directors), and Audit and Supervisory Board members (including Outside Audit and Supervisory Board members) should engage in dialog with shareholders, taking into consideration shareholders' requests and interests to the extent that is reasonable.

The Strategic Planning and Development Department, under the Corporate Planning Office, is responsible for engaging in actual dialog (meetings) with shareholders, and the IR Section manages it. The Company responds to shareholders and investors when they wish to speak with the CEO or the Director responsible for IR activities as much as possible. Management members, and Directors (including Outside Directors) are allowed to attend meetings as needed.

- 5-1 ② Policies for promoting constructive dialog with shareholders should include, at minimum, the following measures:
- (i) Appointment of a member of the Management or a Director responsible for overseeing and ensuring that constructive dialog with shareholders, including the matters stated in items (ii) to (v) below;
- (ii) Measures to ensure positive cooperation between internal departments such as investor relations, corporate planning, general administration, finance, accounting, and legal affairs with the aim of supporting dialog;
- (iii) Measures to promote opportunities for dialog aside from individual meetings (e.g., general investor meetings and other IR activities);
- (vi) Measures to appropriately and effectively share shareholder's views and concerns learned through dialog with the management members and the Board of Directors; and
- (v) Measures to control insider information when engaging in dialog
- (i)(ii) The Company designates the Director, Executive Vice President and CFO, as the Director in charge of IR. The IR Section collaborates with other departments to ensure smooth communication and information sharing.
- (iii) We hold quarterly financial results briefings for shareholders, investors, and analysts, during which our Representative Director, President and CEO or Director, Executive Vice President and CFO provide a direct explanation. Additionally, considering that our headquarters is distant from the bases of our shareholders and investors, we actively conduct IR activities, including one-on-one meetings using web conferencing systems, participation in small meetings and conferences, and regular overseas IR activities.
- (iv) The content and feedback of IR activities and changes in shareholders are reported at monthly Board Meetings, and the information is shared with the Directors.
- (v) To manage insider information, the Company focuses on discussing the themes of sustainable growth and improving corporate value over the mid-to long-term during dialog with investors. We take care to prevent the improper disclosure of confidential information.
- 5-1 ③ The listed companies should make efforts to identify their shareholder ownership structure as necessary, and it is desirable for shareholders to cooperate as much as possible in this process.

To ensure transparency and effective communication with shareholders, the Company confirms the shareholders' list and shareholder ownership structure every quarter, in March, June, September, and December. We also investigate shareholders who substantially hold shares to better understand their current situation and interests. This information is then used for our IR activities on a daily basis.

[Principle 5-2 Establishing and Disclosing Business Strategy and Business Plan] When establishing and publishing business strategies and business plans, the listed companies should show the basic guidelines on their earnings plan and capital policy and present targets for profitability and capital efficiency after accurately understanding their own capital costs. Also, the listed companies should provide clear and logical explanations that are easily understandable for shareholders with respect to reviews of the business portfolio and specific measures on the allocation of management resources, including capital investment, R&D investment, and human capital investment to achieve the targets.

The Company specifies and forecasts management indicators with the goal of realizing sustained growth and the progress of businesses in consideration of maintaining a return on equity (ROE) of 30% or higher and, thus, discloses specific figures and goals in the management plan for each year. In response to the request from the Tokyo Stock Exchange based on the "Action to Implement Management that is Conscious of Cost of Capital and Stock Price" announced on March 31, 2023, we have once again analyzed the current situation and studied the future projections, and announced the following specific policies for a response. (https://corp.zozo.com/en/ir-info/files/pdf/fy2023\_2q\_en.pdf)

Background and current Issues, response policy and specific action plan

As for profit return to shareholders, our group has a basic policy for deliberating and implementing profit return by balancing retained earnings through comprehensive consideration of business performance, financial status, future business and investment plans.

We have maintained a high level of 50–60%, well above our external target of a minimum ROE of 30%. On the other hand, our group's equity capital has been increasing due to the accumulation of internal retained earnings, and it is expected that ROE will gradually deteriorate. In consideration of future business and investment plans, etc., we have determined that further improvements in financial soundness beyond the current level could lead to a decline in capital efficiency in the future. Thus, we set out a policy to return surplus funds to shareholders more proactively than ever before. In addition to raising the consolidated dividend payout ratio, we have set a target of achieving a total shareholder return ratio exceeding 80% (calculated as a medium- to long-term average over approximately five years) by continuously implementing share buybacks while considering stock liquidity and market conditions.

In addition to increasing dividends and share buybacks, we will also undertake fundamental initiatives to ensure sustainable growth. We will continuously review our business portfolio, allocate management resources appropriately, and monitor stock market valuations through the Board of Directors and Management meetings. Furthermore, we will disclose key metrics, such as Gross Merchandise Value by business segment, operating profit, capital investment, and ROE trends, to foster a shared understanding with shareholders and investors regarding the qualitative and quantitative foundations for achieving our management plan.

Implementation of Initiatives

In response to the current challenges outlined above, we have implemented the following initiatives:

1. Increase in dividend payout ratio

Raised the target consolidated dividend payout ratio from 50% to 70%. Consolidated dividend payout ratio for the fiscal year ended March 2024: 70.2%

2. Acquisition of treasury stocks

Total number of shares acquired: 3,129,900 shares

Total acquisition value: ¥9.999.443.450

Acquisition period: November 1, 2023 – March 4, 2024 (based on settlement date)

3. Cancellation of treasury stocks

Cancelled 11,170,104 shares (3.58% of total issued shares before cancellation).

Cancellation date: November 9, 2023

Moving forward, we will continue to consider and implement initiatives aimed at achieving capital returns that exceed capital costs and ensure sustainable growth.

#### <Supplementary Principle>

5-2 ① When establishing and publishing business strategies and other information, the listed companies should clearly review their business portfolio and disclose the basic policy determined by the Board of Directors.

The Company aims for sustainable growth by diversifying its profit drivers beyond its Gross Merchandise Value. To achieve this, we have established three pillars of the strategy, with a clear focus on specific business fields. We disclose these pillars of the strategy and our focus areas at financial results briefings and other meetings to ensure transparency and alignment with our shareholders and investors.

DISCLAIMER:

This document is summary translation of Japanese version. All readers are recommended to refer the original Japanese version for complete information. In the event of any discrepancy, errors and/or omissions, the Japanese version shall prevail.