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## Measures to Ensure Proper Ivory Trade (Recommendations to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government from the Advisory Council)

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Even after the international trade in ivory was prohibited in principle by the Washington Convention (CITES), poaching and illegal trade of elephants has continued, and there have been protests internationally. Meanwhile, in Japan, traditional ivory craft techniques have been handed down since the Edo period, and ivory products are in circulation even today. Concern has been expressed by the Mayor of New York City and others to host city Tokyo on the occasion of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games with regard to illegal ivory being taken overseas via the Japanese ivory market, where anyone can purchase ivory. Japan is not currently recognized as an illegal ivory destination or transit country at the Conference of the Parties to the CITES. Japan, which maintains a sizable ivory inventory and market, however, does have a responsibility to clearly demonstrate to the international community that its market is not contributing to poaching or illegal trade.

Moreover, Tokyo, one of the world's leading international cities and two-time host of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, has numerous registered businesses that handle ivory. Given this, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government is expected to promote efforts to ensure ivory trade is conducted appropriately, including the precise regulation and transparency of trade.

The Advisory Council on Regulation of Ivory Trade has held a total of seven meetings over the past two years to clarify the current situation and issues surrounding the ivory trade, and to compile the following recommendations for actions that should be taken by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

It is our hope that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, based on the Advisory Council's recommendations, will take appropriate action.

1. In order to prevent illegal ivory from being transported overseas and to clearly demonstrate to the international community that the Japanese market is not contributing to the poaching and illegal trade of ivory, it is necessary to further tighten ivory trade control. To this end, a nationwide effort based on laws enacted by the national government is necessary, and as such, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government should strongly urge the national government to undertake the following:
  - Thoroughly implement border measures, such as strengthening the system to improve the effectiveness of control of illegal taking out and bringing into Japan.
  - Implement measures to ensure the intent of the law is achieved, such as expanding and reviewing of the transaction oversight and guidance system in accordance with the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, with the aim of preventing illegal transactions by unregistered businesses and to ensure that transaction records by registered businesses are verified.
  - Implement new measures to improve domestic transaction traceability, such as making the affixing of certification mandatory and fortifying the control of cut pieces and products.
  - Further strengthen public relations and awareness-raising both in Japan and abroad to promote understanding among businesses that handle ivory and consumers of the ivory trade system in Japan as well as the problems surrounding illegal ivory trade, such as ivory being illegally transported overseas.
2. The initiatives implemented by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in cooperation with ivory handling businesses at the time of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games has provided an opportunity to raise awareness on a broad scale of the proper handling of ivory. It will also contribute to the improvement of traceability that the national government should implement. Mandating sellers to confirm the intent of purchasers, in particular, is a measure that contributes to preventing the illegal transportation of ivory. As a recovery in inbound tourism demand is forecast, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government should continue these efforts and work further with businesses that handle ivory to prevent the illegal transportation of ivory products overseas.
3. The issue must also be viewed from the important perspectives of keeping Japan's ivory market at an appropriate level and protecting ivory-related culture and art. Ivory trade is regulated by legal frameworks in major countries around the world as well, and it is permitted with the limited exception of art and such items. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government should consider legal or other effective means to ensure that the ivory trade does not contribute to elephant poaching and illegal trade, while appreciating the cultural and artistic aspects of Japanese ivory products.