



日本生活協同組合連合会

**JAPANESE CONSUMERS' CO-OPERATIVE UNION**

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6th February 2024

Attn: Mr. António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

**Subject: Request for Further Contributions to Ceasefire Efforts and  
Humanitarian Assistance in Palestine and the Gaza Strip**

The Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) is a national federation of consumer co-ops nationwide. It was established in 1951 with the slogan 'For Peace and Better Life'. Currently, approximately 300 consumer co-ops are members of JCCU, with a total of 30 million individual members. In addition to business activities such as product supply, consumer co-ops address social issues related to people's lives and livelihoods. The initiatives involve co-op members in learning and discussing topics such as food, environment, community development, and peace.

Japanese co-op members are deeply shocked and saddened by unending use of force worldwide. Particularly, they recognize the significant and extremely serious situation of the damage in the Palestine-Gaza Strip. I express my sincere respect for the tireless efforts and continuous dedication of the UN Humanitarian Assistance Team, even in the face of the worst-ever casualties among its staff.

In December of last year, a resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly, with the support of 153 countries, including Japan. I consider this to be the collective will of the international community.

Additionally, in January 2024, the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to take all necessary measures to prevent the mass slaughter of civilians in the Gaza Strip. I welcome this decision. I urge the United Nations to strengthen efforts for achieving a long-term ceasefire as soon as possible and to provide extensive humanitarian assistance to the residents of the Gaza Strip.

We expect the United Nations to play a role in keeping world peace and security in accordance with the UN Charter. In addressing conflicts, we hope for resolution through dialogue among stakeholders rather than the use of force. We anticipate that countries around the world will intensify efforts to stop the chain of violence. Within the

United Nations, we expect the creation of pathways for negotiation and an active role in restoring peace.

As consumer co-ops and members of civil society, we will continue to advance our efforts in seeking peace.

土屋 敏夫

TSUCHIYA Toshio, President  
Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU)