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**Globe Parliamentarian Forum to Develop an Action Plan on
Natural Capital to Mainstream the CBD**

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Prime Minister Kan,

Leaders of GLOBE,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here with you this afternoon. We are to celebrate an important milestone with the successful conclusion of the first phase of the International Commission on Land Use Change and Ecosystems.

The GEF has been a proud supporter of the Commission's work; we share Globe's vision that too often country legislators are the *missing link in the policy stakeholders chain*. Without your voice, the voice of lawmakers, parliamentarians, most efforts go to waste.

It is true the GEF exists to serve the joint interests of donor and developing countries, and our interlocutors are mostly found at the executive branches of governments.

Here GEF-funded work generally involves the identification and support of policies and associated legislation that aim to improve sustainable development: this can be through proposals that look to ensure sound management of biodiversity and natural resources, or climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Yet in this process, legislatures are too often not brought into the policy conversation until near the end of the intervention—limiting the opportunity for consensus.

This is precisely why efforts like the ones led by this Commission are so important and we support this, together with other Globe-led initiatives. We strongly believe that to ensure binding consensus we need to bring lawmakers when the dialogue starts, not when it is nearly over—and it is this approach which we believe will lead us on the right path that will mainstream and amplify our impact.

In just two years— a very short period indeed – this Commission elevated the interest and understanding of what is at stake with key political actors within parliaments across the G20 and many other critical nations. We now have an army of change agents around the world that want to take concrete action to protect the land and the water by making smart development choices.

Why is Globe succeeding with this complex agenda? I believe it is due to a simple but ingenious trick: it created an open space for direct dialogue to happen between respected scientists, credible economists, influential policy and key legislators; these, in turn, are capable of bringing simple but powerful messages back to their respective parliaments. The will and leadership of chief executives of governments and agencies are vital in setting in motion needed action.

We often forget that often Globe members from legislative bodies around the world who are the ones ultimately capable of sustaining those efforts as administrations come and go. Needless to say, GEF funding to implement the

objectives of this convention would not exist without a broad base of support from parliamentarians everywhere. Specifically, I am enthusiastic with the high-level policy tools that the Commission produced to support legislators in their efforts to address key drivers of ecosystems degradation in the marine environment and unsustainable land use change from deforestation.

The other feature of the Commission I want to mention briefly before I conclude my remarks is its capacity to rapidly adjust its strategies to policy opportunities as they emerge. During the course of this path-breaking first phase, it became clear that three central topics have found great resonance with the legislators. I am talking about: Tropical Forests, Marine Ecosystems and Natural Capital. Given that these are central themes to GEF's mandate, I am looking forward to another round of great work by Globe and the Commission.

Thank you.