STATEMENT OF THE NAS COUNCIL ON THE ASSASSINATION OF SHINZO ABE

The Council of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) joins many around the globe, including current and former world leaders, in expressing shock and outrage over the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was instrumental in efforts to build Japan’s science infrastructure and its relationship with international partners. In April 2015, late NAS President Ralph Cicerone welcomed the Prime Minister to the NAS building for a discussion with U.S. science leaders of the critical role of science and technology in advancing society, and of the broader relationship between the U.S. and Japan. As Prime Minister, Mr. Abe remained committed to ensuring the success of the annual Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum in Kyoto Japan, an international gathering of which the NAS President has had the honor to be a board member since its founding.

The long history of U.S and Japanese cooperation in science is an important element of a robust friendship between our two countries. The assassination of former Prime Minister Abe reminds us of his crucial role in this friendship as we join with the people of Japan in mourning his loss as they grapple with the implications of such senseless violence.

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