Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good Morning.

Today it is my pleasure and honor to have this opportunity to preside over the opening session of the 13th PIIC Beijing Seminar on International Security: Building a World of Sustainable Peace and Stability. Firstly, please allow me, on behalf of the organizing committee of this seminar, to extend our warm welcome and heartfelt thanks to all the distinguished guests and participants here! And to extend our sincere thanks to the five sponsoring organizations, namely, the Institute of Applied Physics and Computational Mathematics (IAPCM), the International School on Disarmament and Research on Conflicts (ISODARCO), the Chinese Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), the Chinese People’s Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD), and the Nuclear Threat Initiative, thanks for all your support!

Mr. Tung Chee Hwa, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, former Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, was about to attend our meeting, but is not able to be here in person now due to a busy schedule. He asked the organizing committee to convey his congratulations to the convening of this meeting. We express sincere thanks to him.

We are informed and sorry about that some registered participants could not join us this time for various reasons. One reason is caused by recent hurricane Sandy storm heavily striking the US east coast and causing serious human and property casualties. This summer people living Beijing area had very similar experience and...
suffers. We have things in common and fully understand the pains caused by disasters. It is also a clear reminder that our human being as a whole has to face external and challenging problems together, like global whether changes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since the successful holding of the first ISODARCO Beijing Seminar on International Security in 1988, 24 years have passed. During this period, the world has undergone profound changes, and our seminar has also changed a lot with the advancement of the times. At that time, we could not even image to have such an international seminar on security of this scale and dimension in 20 years, like today’s. We just continuously work. More and more important and hot topics are concerned, covering such well known areas as international security, regional security, nuclear policy, strategy and disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, missile defense, etc. Scholars have reached more consensuses and had better mutual understanding. On issues where there are disputes or differences, more communication has been conducted, reducing unnecessary misunderstanding. These understanding and communication have played a positive role for scholars to provide valuable academic viewpoints and suggestions to their people and their governments.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The world is currently undergoing major and profound changes, and the fast developing science and technology remain an important catalyst for civilization evolution towards right directions in general but with setbacks sometimes. With the help of information and space technologies, peoples and countries have never been so interconnected and interdependent as they are today; During the process of economic globalization, emerging markets and developing countries have never had such strong involvement and influences; and cross-civilization dialogues and exchanges are flourishing as never before. The security interests of various countries are deeply interwoven and conflicting at the same time, and sometimes difficult to separate the common from the different. Like a long time peaceful and harmonious common family, seeking common grounds while shelving differences should become a basic principle for interactions among members of the big world family. Historical and
recent experience shows when we focus on the difference, the difference will be unwillingly magnified, vice versa on the common grounds which we wish to seek.

The ultimate goal of comprehensive ban and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and establishing a nuclear weapon free world is more extensively recognized. A series of new progresses have been achieved in the process of international nuclear disarmament. Following the 2009 meeting in London and the 2011 meeting in Paris, the five nuclear weapons states met again at the end of this June to implement the consensus achievements made in the NPT review process. The P-5 Working Group on Glossary of Definitions for Key Nuclear Terms headed by China held the first expert meeting from September 27 to 28 this year in Beijing. The group is determined to compile the glossary at a faster pace and to promote mutual understanding and communications in the nuclear field among the five nuclear weapon states. The consensus in the international community on preventing nuclear proliferation has been further enhanced. As there is still strong need for peaceful use of nuclear energy, the international community is taking practical steps in strengthening nuclear security and nuclear power safety. The first Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was successfully convened this May, laying a good foundation for the smooth advancement of the process of a new round of treaty review.

Meanwhile, we should also notice that the world is still far from being peaceful. The underlying impact of the international financial crisis and the European debt crisis remains strong. Destabilizing factors and uncertainties affecting global growth have increased. Regional turbulence persists, hotspot issues keep emerging and traditional and non-traditional security issues are entwined. The international security environment is highly complex.

In the nuclear field, there still exist many issues that allow no neglect. There are still over tens of thousands of nuclear warheads in the world, with thousands of them continuing to be kept in a status of launch-on-warning. Meanwhile, some countries are making enormous efforts in developing and deploying missile defense systems globally, continuing to bring new uncertainties to the world security. The systematic
striking capability of advanced conventional weapons is growing silently and causing concerns as well. The international community’s security concern is extending to space and cyberspace in an all round way. Regional nuclear issues remain hard to resolve, and the contradiction between peaceful use of nuclear energy and the prevention of nuclear proliferation is relatively outstanding. The risk of terrorists and non-state actors getting their hands on nuclear weapons is increasing. There exist many issues remaining to be resolved in nuclear security and nuclear power safety. To realize the long-term goal of comprehensive ban and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear weapon free world remains a long and arduous task.

Today we are gathering here to discuss about positive measures that can be taken for such important security issues as nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and to explore effective methods and ways for a world of sustainable peace and stability, which is not only of great realistic significance, but also of far-reaching historical significance. Today among the participants there are government officials, social celebrities and scholars from various countries. All of you are expected to speak your minds without reservation and to make common efforts for human peace and happiness.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to reiterate the rule that has been emphasized and proven to be effective during past sessions: that is, our seminar is an academic one, each speaker represents only his or her own personal views, and without necessary permission, their speaking shall not be quoted publicly.

Just as the world today is much different from what it was 20 years ago. I believe, the world will also look completely different from now in the next twenty years, and that will rely on the significant effort we are making together now.

I wish this seminar a complete success, thank you!

Now it is my honor to invite our special guests to address the seminar. For the obvious reason, I will just make a short introduction and leave time for them.

Firstly, let’s welcome Mr. Pang Sen, General Director of the Department of Arms
Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, to give his speech.

Now let’s welcome Mr. Ted Turner, Co-Chairman of NTI, Chairman of Turner Enterprises, Inc. to deliver his speech.

Now, let’s welcome Senator Sam Nunn, Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of NTI to deliver his speech.

Now let’s welcome Mr. Carlo Schaerf, Professor of Rome University and Chairman of ISODARCO to address the seminar.