



## **Engagement, Not Confrontation**

(Los Angeles, April 17, 2008) The members of the Committee of 100 are concerned that the protests against the 2008 Olympics could be counterproductive. Rather than improving China's position on human rights, these protests and potential boycotts could isolate China at a time when the vast majority of Chinese citizens look forward to opening up their country to the world this summer.

The international community, especially the United States, would be best served to engage, rather than confront, China. It is vital to the U.S. interest for it to continue to work with China on human rights, as well as on a host of other critical global issues. These include ending the proliferation of nuclear weapons, achieving security in the Korean Peninsula, and addressing climate change, energy security and global economic development.

We also believe that China in turn, must continue to engage the world even on the most vexing and contentious issues. Nearly thirty years after the launch of the open-door policy that has transformed China and lifted hundreds of millions of Chinese out of isolation and poverty, more remains to be done in order for China to become a respected and responsible stakeholder in world affairs. China cannot focus simply on achieving extraordinary economic growth, or on fielding a dazzling Olympics. China must combine growth with grace to create a modern society based on pluralism, tolerance, transparency, and respect for human rights, religious freedom and the environment. These imperatives are far more critical than the Olympics. This is a difficult, grueling marathon that the whole world needs to encourage China to win.

Beijing has chosen the theme of "One World, One Dream" for the 2008 Olympics. We hope that the Chinese leadership is committed to this goal, and we believe that the international community – governments, businesses and members of civil society – should work with, not against, China and the Chinese people to live up to this ideal.

Founded in 1989, the Committee of 100 is an independent, non-profit membership organization composed of Chinese American leaders in a broad range of professions. Its dual mission is to (1) to encourage stronger relationship between the people of the U.S. and Greater China and (2) to encouraging encourage the full participation of Chinese Americans in all aspects facets of American life. For more information, please visit: [www.committee100.org](http://www.committee100.org).

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