**Friday media briefing, 18:00
TV Studio**

**Proposed SG remarks**

* I would just like to say that I am very pleased to report that work is now really underway, with a very intensive schedule of meetings of ad hoc groups, working groups, regional groupings and informal bilaterals.
* Delegations are really knuckling down to the huge workload that the renegotiation of this treaty represents.
* Meetings start as early as 7am here at Dubai World Trade Centre, and even though the official meeting schedule finishes around 10:30pm, I know that many delegates are still meeting and redrafting contributions well into the early hours of the morning, and then bringing those suggestions back to the table at breakfast meetings.
* We have meetings scheduled all day and into the night right through the weekend, and no-one is grumbling about that. Everyone is very motivated to achieve a compromise, and there is now a real feeling that we are nearing a consensus on many issues. This is encouraging, and despite the fatigue of some delegates after a very long week we remain cautiously optimistic.
* That said, there remain many contentious issues, as we just saw at this Plenary session. We have much work still to do.
* I myself have been meeting with as many delegations as possible, as well as giving as many interviews to media as I can fit into my schedule.
* In addition, I have extended a personal invitation to meet with ALL civil society representatives here in Dubai – both those on delegations, and those here as observers. I am particularly keen to hear their views so that I can personally represent their inputs to the conference to ensure their voice is heard.
* Finally, I know that many of you will have heard rumours of a threatened cyber attack on the conference tomorrow.
* Let me state very clearly that we have taken the appropriate measures to ensure that whatever happens, the work of this conference will proceed unabated.
* I will not tolerate extremists who try to deny others the freedom of expression they claim for themselves. The good spirit we are forging here in Dubai will not be compromised.
* Thank you.