'We Will Work with Trump at UN'

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Deputy Israeli FM Tzipi Hotovely said that the Israeli government is willing to work with the incoming Trump administration regarding ways to repeal the recent anti-Israel UN Security Council resolution which declared all Jewish presence over the 1949 armistice lines to be illegal.

Hotovely said that “the recent Security Council decision was very bad and put Israel in a weak position. Incoming President Donald Trump has made clear he does not plan to force agreements on us. Also, he has given us two promises. One is moving the US embassy to Jerusalem and we believe this will lead to other embassies being moved to Jerusalem. The second is the US will veto any anti-Israel matter. For us, this is a big deal.”

She added that the only way to repeal the anti-Israel resolution passed last month was to pass a new resolution at the Security Council which “recognizes Israel’s right to build in the Judea and Samaria regions as long as there is no peace deal” with the Palestinian Arabs.

Meanwhile, Israel also announced on Friday it will suspend a “significant portion” — totaling around $6 million — of its annual contributions to the UN for 2017 in protest of the approval of the anti-Israel resolution.

Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon said that “It is unreasonable for Israel to fund bodies that operate against us at the UN." He added that "The UN must end the absurd reality in which it supports bodies whose sole intent is to spread incitement and anti-Israel propaganda.”

“Now is the time to implement real change at the UN,” Danon continued. “We seek to stop the practice where the UN is used solely as a forum for unending attacks against Israel.”

The funding cut, according to a statement published by the Israeli UN delegation, “represents the portion of the UN budget allocated to anti-Israel bodies” — including the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; the Division for Palestinian Rights; the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories; and the Special Information Program on the Question of Palestine of the UN Department of Public Information.

Moreover Hotovely announced that she plans to investigate the activities of the 15 UN facilities operating within Israel in order to determine whether to allow them to continue to receive funding and to maintain the use of their buildings in Israel.