

I would like to thank U.S. President Trump and our American allies for their courageous and just decision to leave UNESCO and for their continuous support of Israel.

This new and shiny hall is highly deceptive in leading one to think that something good transpires between the walls of UNESCO, while this organization reaches a new low on every session in every respect.

UNESCO seems to be focused on 2 main goals:

One - giving a bad reputation to international organizations, **and two** - wasting a lot of money and precious time, like today and yesterday in the education committee, **which could – and should – have been used** to promote education and culture, rather than to obsessive politicization against Israel and the Jewish people.

The sorry state of affairs is that on the other side of town, countries stand in line and struggle which one will be lucky enough to join the OECD first, while we, in here, are mired in fruitless struggles which contradict our very mission, mandate and vocation.

All this is happening before our very eyes, while the world's leading super-power, the United States of America, chooses to leave UNESCO, and by no means is it the last country planning to do so.

Dear friends,

Don't be mistaken by the flashlights and the new furniture in this room.
You are all aboard The Titanic!

UNESCO is the Titanic of international organizations, which was hijacked and led by the Arab Group into crashing the iceberg of politicization, and which has been sinking ever since.

Instead, UNESCO should have aspired for the most noble of human values, as inscribed in its mandate, and make a positive change in the lives of billions around the world, who are still deprived of the very minimum of education, science and culture, making it a better and more just world.

Moreover, even the inauguration of this very hall was contaminated with the poison of politicization, as the donor state handed out to all member missions a greeting letter and a medal memorabilia: all member missions, aside from one - ISRAEL.

Observe the hatred! How petty, how primitive, how PATHETIC.

It's made clear once more that petro-dollar can buy much, but there's no price tag on wisdom, manners and etiquette. Your wealth might be in money, but in dignity you are poorer than poor.

Last week, this same state hosted an international Judo tournament and refused to allow the Israeli athletes to don the flag of Israel on their uniform, to wave or position it anywhere nor even to play Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah, even as they were winning medals!

These wrongs are done in full daylight, and all keep quiet: silent accomplices to discrimination in sports: one of the foundations of education and culture, and silent accomplices to the attempts to isolate and ostracize Israel in the inauguration of this hall.

Instead, all should rise and congratulate the Israeli athletes who've shown the true spirit of sports and professionalism and won quite a few medals doing so. As for the silver medal, which was handed to you as a

gift, I'd return it if I were you, so as not to partake in a despicable act which has no place in a free and enlightened world.

I would like to take a moment and mention the names of those athletes who've shown great dignity and sportsmanship, and achieved so much, in spite of the disgraceful conditions:

1. tal fliker – gold medal
2. uri sason – bronze medal
3. gili cohen – bronze medal
4. tohar butbul – bronze medal
5. peter palchik – silver medal

As for the medal in question, more than a few missions have passed us their own, so as a protest. My initial instinct was to put it to good use as a door stop. However, after giving it some more thought, I decided to donate them to the Syrian refugees who are wandering the cold streets of Paris.

These refugees include infants and children, who escaped the atrocities of the Syrian regime and the chemical attacks of that member of the Arab Group against its own women, children and innocent civilians.

If you only invested in them **1%** of the efforts you put in here against Israel, their lives would have been better.

Sadly, UNESCO has been hijacked and abused as a tool for the persecution of Israel and the Jewish people, while concocting fake facts and fake history, meant to erase our history in Jerusalem and re-write global history.

Undeniably, the lowest points were: the attempts to erase the connection between the Jewish people to the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, our holiest of places, and continued with the resolutions against our sovereignty in Jerusalem and the declaration of the Tomb of the Patriarchs as a Palestinian heritage site.

We compete with no religion over the right for freedom of worship in Jerusalem nor do we intend to change one iota in the existing Status Quo, which benefits the three religions.

Our historic right and connection to Jerusalem and the holy places are thousands of years old and need no affirmation from UNESCO.

This week we commemorate 100 years since the Balfour Declaration, which undoubtedly promoted the establishment of a home for the Jewish people after the Holocaust and the plight of thousands of years of exile, yet our basic and undeniable right is rooted in the Book of Books, the holy bible.

The Palestinians and the Arab Group celebrate here, from time to time, anti-Israel and anti-Jewish political resolutions which are absolutely meaningless, aside from fulfilling a sick obsession of singling Israel out and disgracing her.

In words, I have not been successful enough in convincing you of how wrong and mistaken you are, so today I will try to use numbers to make it clearer for you:

No matter where they are around the world, every Jew prays in one direction: that of Jerusalem and Temple Mount. Every groom, at the peak of their wedding, mentions Jerusalem. Three times a day Jerusalem is mentioned in the Jewish prayer book. Through thousands

of years of exile and even today, on holidays and special occasions, every Jew asks: “Next Year in Jerusalem”.

I promised you numbers, so to emphasize this special right and unique bond, I ask you now – who knows how many times Jerusalem is mentioned in the Bible? Or where is it mentioned more – in the Bible or the Quran? Do you have any idea?

So here goes, numbers which hold the truth: in the Bible, Jerusalem is mentioned 667 times! 667 times! In the Quran, Jerusalem is mentioned – are you ready? – not 600 times, or 300 times, or even 5 times, but ZERO. There’s NO MENTION of Jerusalem in the Quran. 0 against 667 times in the Bible. What more do you need?

Jerusalem and Temple Mount were taken from the Jewish people 2000 years ago, and were released on June 7th, 1967, since the moment the commander of the paratroopers’ brigade, Motta Gur, announced on the radio: “Temple Mount is in our hands. Here’s pupil. Temple Mount is in our hands”. After which, the IDF Chief of Staff at the time, Moshe Dayan, added: “we have reunited a dismembered Jerusalem, we are back in the holiest of our places, **we are back and never shall we part ways with them again**”. These were the voices in real time.

Do you understand it, Mr. Palestinian Representative? Mr. Jordanian Representative? Iranian? No matter how many resolutions are passed here, and even if you do it around the clock, and no matter how much effort Tehran will put into their hallucinations of our disappearance: the truth shall stand strong and Israel is HERE TO STAY!

Now let’s view the beauty of Israel in numbers, a state which positively contributes to humanity on every possible plane, beauty which you –

the arab Group – are trying to hide and deface, with lies and obsessive politicization which brought this organization to its knees and destroyed it.

Last September Mexico was struck with a terrible earthquake, a country 12,500KM away from Israel. In spite of the distance, Israel's Aid Mission was second to arrive and lend a helping hand, after Japan, and was the last to leave. Small and distant Israel arrived before anyone else with a delegation of dozens of rescuers.

Now, back to numbers: how many people have those, who initiate here anti-Israel resolutions and their collaborators, sent to assist? How many should have they sent, proportionally, to compare it to tiny Israel, whose entire population is less than 10 million people?

The Islamic Republic of Iran, with 81 million people, should have sent 700 rescuers! Mr. Iranian Ambassador, how many did you send over to Mexico? Or were you all busy with dreams of Israel's destruction, an abomination constantly repeated by your dark and sinister leader? You do lead the world with one number, for the past 25 years – the number of EXECUTIONS.

Pakistan, with 200 million inhabitants, should have sent 1700 rescuers! Mr. Ambassador of Pakistan, do share with us how many did you send? Or were you too busy looking the other way as more and more women are abused and raped in Karachi?

How many did Bangladesh send? Algiers? Morocco? Malaysia? Lebanon?

The same can be said about the tragedies in Turkey, Nepal, Haiti, and anywhere else around the world: **numbers will always show the**

beautiful face of Israel and its people and the ugliness of the gang members who are busy obsessively passing here ridiculous resolutions against us.

At this point, the issue is as bright as the light of day: Israel prides itself in its achievements of noble laureates, medical innovations, new technologies, high tech, cyber tech, agriculture, water technologies, status of women, LGBTQ rights and more, There's no comparison in all of the above between Israel and the Jewish people, and the obsessive coalition busy defaming us in these halls.

One thing you do give the world, which none can compete with: as manufacturers and exporters of terror. Sadly, when news break of yet another terrorist attack, no matter where it took place in the world, 2 things are easily guessed with almost certainty: what was the religion of the terrorist, which he adopted and interpreted with extreme fundamentalism, and what words they chanted as they killed innocents.

Only one Western state remained in your coalition of the disgraced. In Hebrew we have a saying: "Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are". That state might have the best of intentions, but is committing deeds which cause the exact opposite. It's similar to the world's best orthopedic surgeon who insists on saving his friend, who's in need of brain surgery.

Your triumphs here, are a complete defeats. We have no desire in a sum zero game, but rather one in which we are all winners: overcome, together, the challenges of our region, and create a future – a better future for us all.

While our left hand is stretched out in peace, our right hand shall continue to strike those who attack Israel or attempt to attack any Jew anywhere around the world.

I hope and believe that I am the last Israeli ambassador in UNESCO who needs to face and fight this politicized obsession against its people.

Good bye for now and Shabbat shalom