



## Joint meeting of the Commission on International Cooperation and the Interreligious Working Group for the Protection of Believers takes place



### **DECR Communicartion service, 27.02.23.**

On February 27th, a joint meeting of the Commission for international cooperation and the Inter-religious working group for the protection of believers from discrimination and xenophobia of the Council for Cooperation with Religious Associations under the President of Russia was held at the Department of External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate.

The meeting, chaired by Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the DECR, Head of the Commission on International Cooperation, was attended by: A. Yu. Vylegzhanin; head of the Department for Cooperation with Religious Organizations of the Department for Internal Policy of the President of the Russian Federation E. V. Eremin; adviser to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Archpriest Nikolai Balashov; representative of the Russian and New Nakhichevan Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church priest Gevorg Vardanyan; leading bishop of the Russian United Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith (Pentecostals) S. V. Ryakhovsky; deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Spiritual Administration of Muslims on international affairs R. R. Abbyasov; Deputy Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia A. V. Tikhomirov; Chairman of the International Islamic Mission Sh. A.

Pshikhachev; Dashi-Nima Sodnomdorzhiev, Head Hambo Lama of the Buddhist Traditional Sangha of Russia; First Deputy Chairman of the Euro-Asian Division of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church O. V. Goncharov as well as other Commission members and invited officials.

The secretary of the DECR for inter-Christian relations, coordinator of the Interreligious Working Group for Protection of believers from discrimination and xenophobia, Hieromonk Stefan (Igumnov) told the audience about the experience of religious organizations of the Russian Federation in providing humanitarian assistance to the inhabitants of the Donetsk and Lugansk Republics, Zaporozhye and Kherson regions.

Archpriest Sergei Zvonarev, DECR secretary for the far abroad and executive secretary of the Commission on International Cooperation, reported on the prospects of participation of traditional religious organizations of the Russian Federation in global interfaith meetings.

Concluding the meeting, Metropolitan Anthony wished all those present blessed success in their future labors.

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Source: <https://mospat.ru/en/news/90090/>