



## **Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk meets with Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of 73rd session of UN General Assembly**



On 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019, at the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, DECR chairman, met with Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of UN General Assembly.

They were joined in the meeting by Ms. Anna Yevstigneyeva, deputy director of the International Organizations Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Kwabena Osei-Danquah, Chef de Cabinet to the President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly; Mr. Vladimir Kuznetsov, head of the UN Information Centre in Moscow; Deacon Andrei Titushkin, a staff member of the DECR Secretariat for Far Abroad Countries; Ms. Carolina Nazzaro, assistant to the President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly; and Mr. Diego Barreiro, Press Secretary to the President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Greeting the high guest, Metropolitan Hilarion noted that the Moscow Patriarchate devotes close and respectful attention to the activities of the United Nations.

The archpastor told Ms. Espinosa Garcés about the present-day structure of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as about the activities of the Department for External Church Relations and Church's interaction with the external world.

The participants in the meeting discussed a number of topical issues facing the world today, such as the persecutions of Christians in the Middle East. Metropolitan Hilarion also mentioned the ecclesiastical situation in Ukraine, presenting to the high-ranking international official facts of pressure and oppression that the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church are suffering.

*DECR Communication Service*

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