



## **DECR chairman meets with Executive Director of UN World Food Programme**



On 20 February 2018, at the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, DECR chairman, met with Mr. David Beasley, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme.

Mr. Beasley was accompanied by Mr. Daniel Rugholm, his special advisor; Mr. Christopher Kaye, Director of the UN World Food Programme's Donor Relations Division; and Mr. Andrey Shirkov of the UN World Food Programme's Donor Relations Division.

Representing the DECR were also Archpriest Sergy Zvonarev, secretary for far abroad countries; Hieromonk Stefan (Igumnov), secretary for inter-Christian relations; Deacon Andrei Titushkin of the Secretariat for Far Abroad Countries; and Mrs. Margarita Nelyubova of the Secretariat for Inter-Christian Relations.

Taking part in the meeting were also Ms. Marina Velikanova, First Secretary of the Department of International Organizations of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mr. Dmitry Kulikov, Third Secretary of the Department of International Organizations of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The major topic of the meeting was rendering humanitarian aid to the population of the countries with low-income level, suffering from the chronic food shortage.

The UN representative told about the activities of the World Food Programme in various parts of the world, as well as about the efforts aimed at raising awareness of the world community about the problems of starving people.

Metropolitan Hilarion informed Mr. Beasley about charity projects of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as about the work of the Interreligious Working Group for Humanitarian Aid to the People of Syria of the Commission for International Cooperation of the Presidential Council for Cooperation with Religious Organizations.

The participants in the meeting concurred that it was necessary to develop cooperation between religious communities of Russia and the USA in implementing joint humanitarian projects.

*DECR Communication Service*

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