



## **Working Group for Cooperation between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs holds its 22nd session**

On 13 November 2017, a meeting of the Working Group for Cooperation between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs took place at the Ministry's Reception House under the co-chairmanship of Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, and Mr. Grigory Karasin, State Secretary and Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Karasin presented Metropolitan Hilarion with an award of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – badge of distinction For Contribution to International Cooperation.

The members of the working group discussed various aspects of cooperation between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Ministry, including the problem of persecution of Christians in various parts of the world and the defense of traditional values in the context of the interreligious dialogue and the dialogue between the state and religious confessions.

The participants in the meeting outlined the main areas of the working group's activities for the near future.

*DECR Communication Service*