DECR representative attends round table on Buddhism in Russia



On October 25, 2016, a round-table conference on Buddhism as a Factor in the Development of the Civil Society, Inter-confessional Peace and Accord in the Russian Federation was held at the Council of the Federation.

The meeting was chaired by O. Tsepkin, member of the Council of the Federation committee on constitutional law and state-building. Among the speakers were M. Fedotov, chairman of the Presidential Committee for developing the civil society and human rights, I. Diskin, chairman of the Public Chamber commission for harmonizing inter-ethnic and interreligious relations; A. Tulokhonov, member of the Council of the Federation committee for international affairs; as well as representatives of Buddhist organizations in Russia, state official and academics.

In his remarks, S. Melnik, secretariat for interreligious relations of the Moscow Patriarchate department for external church relations (DECR), spoke about the work of the Interreligious Council in Russia, of which the Buddhist Traditional Sangha in Russia is a member.

It was noted that the Buddhist religious organizations as an integral part of civil society take part in inter-

ethnic and interreligious dialogue, maintain cooperation with federal and municipal bodies and officers and public organizations, and work in such spheres as charity, education, culture and preservation of the historical heritage.

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