



## **Metropolitan Hilarion meets with Russia's representative to the UN**

On February 8, 2011, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, met with Mr. Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN.

The high-ranking Russian diplomat gave dinner in honour of Metropolitan Hilarion, in the course of which they exchanged opinions concerning the present state of affairs at the international arena. Mr. Churkin told the DECR chairman about the work carried out by the Russian diplomatic mission and the way in which the theme of religious values and inter-religious dialogue is seen within the UN.

Metropolitan Hilarion emphasized his conviction that these themes should occupy one of the main places on the UN agenda. They also discussed some specific initiatives in which it is possible to develop cooperation.

Participating in the meeting were also Archpriest Igor Vyshchanov of the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. Nicholas in New York, representative of the World Russian People's Council to the UN, and Mr. G. Lukyantsev, advisor to the Russian Federation Permanent Representation to the UN.

*DECR Communication Service*