



## **Interreligious Working Group for humanitarian aid to population of Syria holds its session**



On 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the tenth session of the Interreligious Working Group for humanitarian aid to the population of Syria of the Council for cooperation with religious associations under the President of the Russian Federation took place at the premises of the Presidential Administration.

Taking part in the meeting were Mr. Andrei V. Tretyakov, adviser of the Presidential Domestic Policy Directorate and executive secretary of the Council; Hieromonk Stefan (Igumnov), secretary for inter-Christian relations of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations (DECR) and head of the group; Ildar Hazrat Ziganshin, member of the Presidium of the Central Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Russia; Sergei V. Ryakhovsky, presiding bishop of the Associated Russian Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith (Pentecostals); Salikh Hazrat Ibragimov, Imam-muhtasib of Nizhnekamsk and the Nizhnekamsk district of Tatarstan; Rev. Gevorg Vardanian, representative of the Armenian Apostolic Church's diocese of Russia and Novo-Nakhichevan; Mr. Jean-François Thiry, representative of the Archdiocese of the Mother of God in Moscow (Roman-Catholic Church) and

president of the 'Pokrovskie Vorota' Cultural Centre; Mr. Boris G. Protasevich, rector of Zaoksky University of the Seventh-day Adventists Church; Mr. Oleg V. Shabunovich, acting head of the Moscow branch of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society; Mr. A.A. Terentiev, chief adviser of the Presidential Domestic Policy Directorate; Mr. Pavel N. Kostylev and Mr. Yury V. Zudov, advisers of the Presidential Domestic Policy Directorate; Dmitry D. Shatrov, deputy presiding bishop of the Associated Russian Union of Christians of the Evangelical Faith (Pentecostals); and Hierodeacon Petr (Akhmatkhanov), a DECR staff member.

Mr. Tretyakov opened the session and told the participants about the World Conference on Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue planned for 2022.

On behalf of the members of the working group Hieromonk Stefan congratulated Mr. Tretyakov on his appointment as executive secretary of the Council for cooperation with religious associations under the President of the Russian Federation. The participants considered activity plan of the Interreligious Working Group and the Interreligious Foundation for Promoting Joint Humanitarian Projects for 2021.

Representatives of different confessions underscored the necessity of rendering humanitarian aid to the Syrian people in future and discussed a number of concrete projects expected to be realized in the current year.

*DECR Communication Service*

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