



## Moscow Patriarchate delegation led by the DECR chairman arrives in Kazakhstan



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In the evening of September 13, a Russian Orthodox Church delegation led by Metropolitan Anthony of Kazakhstan, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations (DECR), arrived in Nur-Sultan with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus' to take part in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional religions. Two members of the delegation, Metropolitan Kirill of Kazan and Tatarstan and Archimandrite Philaret (Bulekov), DECR vice-chairman, arrived together with the DECR chairman who is accompanied by his assistant, Rev. Alexander Yershov.

The delegation was met at the airport by Sergey Karplyuk, Deputy of the Senate of the Parliament of

the Republic of Kazakhstan; Daniyar Kadirov, Vice Minister of Information and Social Development of Kazakhstan; Archimandrite Sergy (Karamyshev), dean of the Astana city church district; and Rev. Dmitry Safonov, DECR secretary for interreligious relations, a member of the official delegation, who arrived in Kazakhstan earlier to take part in the meetings of the Congress' working bodies.

That same day, H.E. Alexey Borodavkin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Kazakhstan, gave a dinner in honour of the delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church. Attending the dinner were also Metropolitan Alexander of Astana and Kazakhstan, head of the Kazakhstan metropolitan district; Archimandrite Sergiy (Karamyshev); and Hieromonk Kirill (Korytko), secretary of the Tatarstan metropolia. Ambassador Borodavkin warmly greeted his guests. Metropolitan Anthony thanked him for help in arranging the participation of the Russian Orthodox Church delegation in the Congress and also for the assistance he is rendering to the metropolitan district in Kazakhstan. Discussed were prospects for the development of interreligious dialogue as a follow-up of the initiatives provided by the Congress, as well as other issues.

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