



## **DECR Chairman meets with President of Kazakhstan K.K. Tokayev**



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On September 14, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev received in audience Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations; Metropolitan Veniamin of Minsk and Zaslavl, Patriarchal Exarch for All Belarus; Metropolitan Alexander of Astana and Kazakhstan, head of the Metropolis of Kazakhstan; and Metropolitan Kirill of Kazan and Tatarstan.

In the course of the meeting, President Tokayev congratulated Metropolitan Anthony on his appointment as chairman of the DECR and noted that Orthodoxy plays an important role in strengthening the unity and solidarity of the people of Kazakhstan. He said that the Orthodox Church makes a considerable contribution to the promotion of common human and spiritual-moral values in the Kazakh society.

The head of the state stressed that in Kazakhstan, all conditions are created for the development of traditional religions including Orthodoxy.

In conclusion of the talk, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev asked to convey the words of special gratitude to Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia for his help in promoting the lofty aims of the Congress of the World and Traditional Religions, and his wishes of sound health and spiritual fortitude in his Primate ministry.

In his turn, Metropolitan Anthony conveyed best wishes to the President of Kazakhstan from His Holiness Patriarch Kirill together with his words of support for Kazakhstan's initiatives in interreligious dialogue.

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