



## **Metropolitan Anthony meets with chairman of the Organization for Culture and Islamic Relations of Iran.**



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On 15<sup>th</sup> September in the assembly hall of the VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in the Palace of Peace and Accord in the capital of Kazakhstan the chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate the metropolitan of Volokolamsk Anthony met with the chairman of the Organization for Culture and Islamic Relations of Iran Mohammed Mahdi Imanipurom, who was accompanied by the director of the Department of the Centre of Dialogue between Religions and Cultures of the aforementioned Islamic organization.

The participants of the meeting in a friendly atmosphere discussed cooperation between the Russian Orthodox Church and Muslim organizations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the prospects of continuing the work of the joint 'Orthodoxy-Islam' Russian-Iranian commission on dialogue. Mohammed

Imanipurom invited metropolitan Anthony to visit Iran and the proposal was accepted with gratitude. Also discussed was the regular interaction between the Department of External Church Relations with the cultural representation office at the Iranian embassy in Moscow.

The Organization for Culture and Islamic Relations of Iran (OCIRI) is one of the most important state organizations of this country. One of the sub-departments of the OCIRI is the Centre for Interreligious Dialogue. Since the inception of 'Orthodox-Islam' group in 1997, the OCIRI has been the organizer of meetings on the Iranian side. Sessions take place once every two years in Teheran and in Moscow alternately. The last session took place between 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Teheran.

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