Iranian delegation arrives in Moscow for Joint Russian-Iranian Commission for Orthodoxy-Islam Dialogue.



DECR Communication Service, 19.02.2023.

On February 19, a delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived in Moscow for the 12th meeting of the Joint Russian-Iranian Commission for Orthodoxy-Islam Dialogue The meeting will consider the role of religion in the religious consolidation of society in the post-pandemic world. It will be held on February 21-22.

At Sheremetyevo airport, Ayatollah Mahmoud Mohammadi Araki, member of the IRI Council for the Religious Policy and Coordination of Inter-religious Dialogue; Dr Fatima Tabatabai, head of the Scientific Association of Islamic Learning in Iran; and Ms Zahra Rashid-Beigi, leader of the Islam-Orthodoxy group of the Organization for Culture and Islamic Relations in Iran, were met, with a blessing of DECR chairman Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, by Rev. Dimitry Safonov, DECR secretary for inter-religious relations, and D. I. Menyailov, DECR Protocol Service. From the Iranian side, the

delegation was met by H.E. Kazem Jalali, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Mr. Masoud Ahmadvand, head of the Cultural Representation under the Iranian Embassy in Russia; and Mr Rasoul Abdollahi, director of the Moscow Representation of al-Moustafa University.

The head of the Iranian delegation, Mohammad Mahdi Imanipour, chairman of the Islamic Culture and Communication Organization under the IRI Council for Religious Policy and Coordination of the Inter-religious Dialogue, will come to Moscow on February 20.

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The Joint Russian-Iranian Commission for Orthodoxy-Islam Dialogue was formed in 1997. It held its sessions in Teheran (1997, 2001, 2006, **2010**, **2014** и **2018**) and Moscow (1999, 2004, 2008, **2012** and **2016**). At its meetings, the Commission considered, in particular, the place and role of religion in today's world, inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue, human rights, globalization, problems of terrorism and extremism, the spiritual-moral crisis in society, particular issues of Christian and Islamic theology and anthropology, the attitude of religions to the environment, the situation of religious minorities in the Middle East.

The Holy Synod, at its session on December 29, 2022, approved the membership of the Russian Orthodox Church's delegation and Metropolitan Kirill of Kazan and Tatarstan as its head.

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