

15/02/2021, Bornova

To: WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is a great pleasure for me to write a letter of commitment indicating Bornova's enactment to become more age-friendly city, which has been proved by the enclosed Bornova City Council Decision taken on 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2020. It is highly crucial for me to write this commitment letter under restricting Covid – 19 Pandemic conditions.

Firstly, I would like to give you brief information on our city. Bornova, as one of the oldest local authorities of Turkey established in 1881 within the Province of Izmir, is located in the western coast of Turkey. Bornova is the cradle of many civilizations that conserves the rich history of 8500 years, where it is believed that Homer, the world-famous author of epic poems of Iliad and Odyssey had lived. Its rich historical background makes Bornova not only Izmir's but also all Aegean Region's oldest settlement center.

Bornova is a highly urbanized and modern city that covers 215 Km<sup>2</sup> area which is the third-largest district in Izmir and locates almost 450.000 inhabitants in Greater Metropolitan Area. According to 2019 statistics 13% of this population is over 65 -age. Furthermore, the city has a population growth rate above the national average of 1,2%, at around 3,5%. And the urbanization rate of Bornova is 91 %, being higher than the national average of 75 %.

Taking into consideration all these demographic factors, as Bornova Municipality all of the investments, projects, and services are carried out with respect to our mottos "**Innovation**" and "**Efficiency**" in accordance with the 2019-2023 strategic plan of the municipality. Additionally, the long - term vision of Bornova Municipality is consistent with its plans to sustain the harmony among different ages and social groups through providing comprehensive solutions and initiatives. Therefore, the ambition of Bornova is to develop and transfer innovative and enduring approaches on health and age-friendly tools and methodologies to raise the capacity of the municipality by consulting on GNAFCC's principles and values in order to create an age-friendly local environment in our city.

As it is stated in Bornova Municipality Strategic Plan, and in order to deliver a higher quality for aging and elderly life, coherence, and consistency on age-friendly city purpose; Bornova has been working hard on providing healthier age opportunities and increasing the capacity of health services for the inhabitants.

In conclusion, under the scope of age-friendly conception, this letter has been the reflection of our enthusiasm to become a respectful and tolerant city where people are happy to grow older and involve in local decision-making mechanisms. Therefore we would like to improve life quality in Bornova for not only elderly people's needs and demands but also all the inhabitants living in Bornova.

Thanks to the membership of GNAFCC, we provide the opportunity and necessary means in order to have the standards of *aging in place*, therefore we would also like to share our activities regularly with GNAFCC. Finally with this letter I, as Mayor of Bornova, assigned Ms. Başak Turhan, as a contact person who has been the Director of Foreign Relations Directorate of Bornova Municipality for 7 years and she will be in charge of all the application process of the membership.

Hopefully membership to this program will be a key to new fruitful approaches in my city.

Sincerely yours,

**Dr. Mustafa İDUĞ**  
**MAYOR OF BORNOVA**

