Letter of Commitment to the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

"Uninterrupted Progress, Eumseong as You Imagine"

I am Cho Byeong-ok, Mayor of Eumseong County.

I extend my deepest respect and warm greetings to everyone involved in the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, who are dedicated to promoting public health worldwide and improving the well-being of older people.

Eumseong County, in North Chungcheong Province, is a vibrant county in the central inland region where advanced industries and modern agriculture thrive in harmony. Located near the Seoul metropolitan area and served by an extensive transportation network, the county holds tremendous potential for growth. At the same time, with adults aged 65 and older accounting for more than 27 percent of its population of approximately 100,000, Eumseong has entered a super-aged society. This places the county at an important turning point, requiring it to respond to demographic change proactively and strategically.

Eumseong County has chosen to turn the challenge of population aging into an opportunity for progress, joining the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in 2024. During the first phase of its initiative (2024-2026), the county adopted the vision, "Healthy Aging in the Place We Call Home: Eumseong, an Age-Friendly City." It has steadily carried out 45 detailed initiatives based on the WHO's eight domains, laying a strong institutional and environmental foundation for improving older residents' quality of life.

Building on the achievements of the first phase, Eumseong County is now preparing its second-phase action plan (2027-2031), incorporating the values of "lifelong welfare for all," a core philosophy of county administration. To realize its second-phase vision—"A Place Where People Want to Live as They Age: An Age-F
riendly City Where All Generations Thrive Together"—the county is establishing 45 key indicators and aims to create a sustainable age-friendly community that makes a tangible difference in the lives of older people and all residents.

In particular, the second-phase action plan will expand the "Eumseong-style Senior Employment Program," which supports active aging and social participation, and strengthen the "Eumseong-style Integrated Care Program for Older People," which coordinates housing, healthcare, long-term care, and other support services. Through these efforts, we will build the care infrastructure needed to ensure that older people can enjoy healthy, dignified, and safe lives in the communities they have long called home.

Through its second-phase renewal, Eumseong County looks forward to building an even more age-friendly community, sharing effective policy experience with age-friendly cities around the world, and contributing to healthy aging and improved well-being worldwide as a committed partner in the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

We respectfully ask for the continued interest and support of everyone at WHO, and wish you every success.

Thank you.

October 2026

Mayor of Eumseong County, Republic of Korea

Cho Byeong-ok

조 병 옥

The Center of Korea, EumSeong

173, Jungang-ro, Eumseong-eup, Eumseong-gun,Chungcheongbuk-do,Republic of Korea
T.043-871-3114 / F.043-871-1900 / https://www.eumseong.go.kr.