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**WHO Secretariat of the Global Network of Age-Friendly
Cities and Communities
c/o Thiago Herick de Sá
World Health Organization
Av Appia 20, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland**

COMMITMENT LETTER TO THE GLOBAL NETWORK FOR AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

I am pleased to address this commitment letter, to express the interest of the City of Rijeka, Croatia, to join the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

The City of Rijeka has been committed to fostering an age-friendly environment for many years, and this goal has been formally expressed in all of Rijeka's Health Development Plans since 1996.

Through its continuous membership in the WHO European Healthy Cities Network in every phase since 1998, Rijeka has earned a reputation as one of the pioneers of creating age-friendly environments in Europe. This reputation was solidified in 2004 when Rijeka became one of the founding members of the European Healthy Cities Network Healthy Ageing Task Force.

Through its work within the Task Force, Rijeka became one of the first cities to develop a Healthy Ageing Strategy (Healthy Ageing Strategy in Rijeka 2009-2013), and has collaborated with the WHO and other members to create the publication "Creating age-friendly environments in Europe", as well as its Croatian translation.

Over the years Rijeka has made great efforts to ensure the fostering of an age-friendly environment on a local level, which is also one of the priorities of the City's current Health Development Plan. Rijeka's Social Programme has many measures aimed at the social and economic well-being of older people, with the goal of helping those who are especially economically vulnerable. The City is also directly engaging with its older citizens by closely working with the local Association for Older People, and by providing financing for some of their projects. Furthermore, the City of Rijeka has created a "Rijeka – Healthy City" Thematic Group for Healthy Ageing, which is composed of local stakeholders whose work is aimed at increasing the health and well-being of older people, and which allows those involved to directly influence the City's policies. Additionally, Rijeka is providing financing for the operation of 16 Clubs for Older People spread across the city, which promote social inclusion of older people, as well as other important services. The City is also providing its older citizens with various forms of guided exercise courses, which are free of charge for the users. Rijeka is especially recognized nationally and internationally for its work on increasing the digital literacy of older people, with the goal of closing the digital divide. All of the aforementioned work will be carried on and expanded upon in the years to come.

I hereby confirm that the City of Rijeka will continue to comply with the stages of the Age-Friendly Cities process, as well as with the mission and vision of the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities and the values promoted by the World Health Organization.

Hoping that the application will be favorably considered, and that our joint efforts will help ensure that over time every person in the world will be able to grow old in an age-friendly environment.

Yours faithfully,

MAYOR

Marko Filipović

