

[10/12/2024,İzmir]

To the WHO Secretariat of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities,

I am pleased to address this formal commitment letter to express the interest of the City of İzmir, Türkiye, in joining the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We see this opportunity as a vital step toward reinforcing our dedication to creating an inclusive, accessible, and supportive environment for our elderly citizens.

İzmir Metropolitan Municipality recognizes the great value of joining a global network that promotes the sharing of knowledge and best practices. By joining this network, we aim to benefit from universal insights and expertise that will enable us to improve the quality of life of all our residents by building a more equal, inclusive and fair environment. We firmly believe that by making our city livable for our senior citizens, we will create a more livable and inclusive space for all residents.

İzmir has made significant strides in promoting healthy and dignified aging. As the only metropolitan municipality in Türkiye to operate a municipal hospital, it offers unique health and wellness support to the elderly population. Additionally, the Municipality has established a Healthy Aging and Solidarity Center, an Alzheimer's and Dementia Center, and a nursing home, all dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our elderly citizens. These facilities offer services that promote adaptability, social engagement, and resilience, while also supporting the families of older adults. We have also been expanding health-supported home care services to ensure continuity of care for those in need.

With a forward-looking vision, İzmir has prioritized the development of an Elderly İzmir Action Plan for 2024. This comprehensive plan is designed to make our city more inclusive and livable for all, particularly for older adults. It addresses critical areas such as accessible public spaces, improved healthcare and social services, and initiatives that encourage intergenerational cooperation and solidarity.

İzmir Metropolitan Municipality is fully committed to adhering to the stages of the Age-Friendly Cities process, as well as to the mission, vision, and values promoted by the World Health Organization, as established in the Terms of Reference.

We believe that joining the WHO Global Network will not only support our efforts but also amplify our impact, as we collaborate with cities worldwide toward a shared goal.

We sincerely hope that this application will be favorably considered. It is our honor to act as a proactive member of this prestigious network and contribute to the collective vision of a more inclusive world.

Yours faithfully,

**Dr. Cemil TUGAY**

Mayor of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality

