

To:

World Health Organization (WHO)
Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities

Balçova Municipality hereby expresses its full commitment to joining the Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities and to advancing WHO's vision of inclusive, safe, and supportive environments for older persons.

As Mayor of Balçova, I affirm our municipality's dedication to promoting active, healthy, and dignified ageing, fully aligned with our local strategic priorities and Türkiye's national ageing and health policies. Balçova has long been recognized for its strong social infrastructure, community-based services, and inclusive urban ecosystem. Building on these foundations, we commit to strengthening our age-friendly approach across all areas of municipal governance.

Balçova Municipality undertakes the following commitments:

1. To develop and implement a three-year Age-friendly Action Plan, aligned with the WHO framework and covering all eight domains of age-friendly cities: outdoor spaces and buildings; transportation; housing; social participation; respect and social inclusion; civic participation and employment; communication and information; and community support and health services.
2. To engage older residents meaningfully in the design, monitoring, and evaluation of age-friendly policies, ensuring their voices and lived experiences are fully reflected in municipal decision-making processes.
3. To conduct baseline assessments and periodic monitoring, and to share progress updates with the WHO Global Network every two years in accordance with WHO reporting requirements.
4. To integrate age-friendly principles into Balçova's ongoing strategic planning, urban development, social services, digital transformation, and health-promotion initiatives — including our Active and Healthy Ageing programs, community centers, smart-city infrastructure, and inclusive citizen engagement platforms.

Balçova is committed to collaborating with WHO, international partners, and peer cities to advance evidence-based, equitable, and future-ready age-friendly practices. Membership in the Global Network will reinforce our municipality's long-standing dedication to creating a community where all generations can thrive.

We respectfully submit this letter as our official expression of commitment.

Sincerely,

Onur Yiğit
Mayor
Balçova Municipality
İzmir, Türkiye

