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Dr Gulnara Minnigaleeva
Senior Resource Center
“Wisdom Ripening”
CEO

22 October 2009

Dear Dr Minnigaleeva,

As Director of the Ageing and Life Course Department, World Health Organization, I am pleased to authorize you to approach organizations in Russia to solicit interest in engaging participation in the WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities Network.

The concept of age-friendliness goes back a number of years, but the World Health Organization (WHO) first became involved in 2005 through a project bringing together 35 cities from around the world. This project resulted in the publication of the "Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide", which outlines a detailed framework for assessing a city's capacity to support their older residents to remain healthy and actively engage in their community. The guidelines identify 8 domains of city life that might influence active ageing in older people: outdoor spaces and buildings; transportation; housing; social participation; respect and social inclusion; civic participation and employment; communication and information; community support and health services.

Since response to this document has been overwhelming, with cities around the world indicating their desire to join this global movement, the World Health Organization has made a decision to build on this support through the establishment of a *WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities*®. The goals of the network are to provide encouragement and technical support to cities embarking on this journey, to provide links between cities so they can share their experiences and learn from the experience of others, and to ensure that interventions taken to improve the lives of older people are appropriate, sustainable and cost effective.

I would be pleased if you could provide full information about the network and ways of engaging in it to the interested parties, help to establish the official contact with the WHO Ageing and Life Course Department, and assist to proceed with the beginning stages of the project initiation in the interested city.

Again, thank you for assisting WHO to make contact with cities in Russia potentially interested in participation in this worldwide ageing project.

Yours faithfully,

Dr John Beard
Director
Ageing and Life Course (ALC)