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Kyiv, 1 September 2025

Professor Jörg M. Fegert
President, European Society for Child
and Adolescent Psychiatry (ESCAP)

Dear Professor Fegert,

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Ukraine presents its compliments to you and expresses its gratitude for close cooperation with UNICEF in improving the well-being of children in Ukraine.

UNICEF appreciates your expertise, leadership, and steadfast support to Ukraine's efforts to build the capacity of child and adolescent mental health specialists amid the ongoing war. Through your personal engagement, ESCAP and UNICEF – together with the Coordination Centre for Mental Health of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Ministry of Health, and the National Health Service of Ukraine – have delivered the webinar series “**Specialized Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents**” in support of the National Mental Health Programme “**How Are You?**”, an initiative of the First Lady of Ukraine.

The series has had wide coverage that meaningfully strengthens providers' knowledge of evidence-based practices and capacity to provide modern care. To date, up to **10,000** unique participants: psychiatrists and mental health specialists, other healthcare professionals, staff in newly established Mental Health Centres, professors and students in medical universities and colleges have joined the webinar series; the recorded sessions have garnered close to **37,000** views. Interest extends beyond the medical community to psychologists, civil society, educators, personnel of inclusive resource centres, and social workers, including in regions most affected by the war.

Your contribution has been especially timely in light of the ongoing system reform whereby child psychiatry services are being integrated into regional children's hospitals and other large general hospitals rather than provided in specialised psychiatric facilities. This major shift requires significant preparation and capacity building for both staff and management. The webinar series you have championed directly addresses these needs. Participants consistently report that the sessions are instrumental in adapting to the new care model.

We are also grateful to the ESCAP Board for its decision to continue supporting Ukraine by engaging leading experts as speakers in the next phase of the series.

We look forward to our continued collaboration to expand access to high-quality, evidence-based mental health services for children and adolescents. Again, UNICEF Ukraine is grateful for your unwavering support, leadership within ESCAP, solidarity with Ukrainian colleagues, and your advocacy for Ukrainian children and families.

The United Nations Children's Fund in Ukraine avails itself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of its consideration.

Best Regards


Shameza Abdulla
Deputy Representative Programmes
UNICEF Ukraine

