

1996/14. Use and application of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, adopted, on the recommendation of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/34 of 29 November 1985,

Recalling also its resolution 1995/27 of 24 July 1995, section IV, paragraph 32, in which it requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and relevant organizations on the advisability of preparing a manual on the use and application of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,

Noting with appreciation the deliberations and work of the Expert Group Meeting on Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power in the International Setting, held at Vienna from 18 to 22 December 1995, and its recommendations,⁴⁸

Noting the usefulness of the manuals already published and disseminated by the Secretariat under the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme,

1. *Recognizes* the desirability of preparing a draft manual or draft manuals on the use and application of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power for submission to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixth session, on the understanding that the Secretary-General will seek the views of Member States on the draft manual or draft manuals and will report on those views to the Commission at its seventh session;

2. *Recommends* that this work be undertaken, taking into account the different legal systems and practices of each State, by expert group meetings to be convened with extrabudgetary funds in cooperation with the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the World Society of Victimology and other entities, and with the support of the Secretary-General;

3. *Welcomes* the offers by the Governments of the Netherlands and the United States of America to host the expert group meetings;

4. *Recommends* that the expert group meetings explore the feasibility of establishing a database on promising practices and legislation on victim-related issues, as a supplement to the manual or manuals;

5. *Decides* that the use and application of the Declaration should be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as a topic under an appropriate agenda item;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court the potential applicability of the basic principles contained in the Declaration.

*45th plenary meeting
23 July 1996*