

Chapter 1 Comprehensive and systematic promotion of the measures for crime victims

Section 1 Development of the measures for crime victims in Japan

- In 1980 the “Act on Payment of Benefits for Crime Victims” was enacted and a system to pay benefits to crime victims established in order to ease their mental shock and financial damage by paying benefits to the victims of intentional criminal acts.

After entering into Heisei era, an outline of measures for victims (1996) by National Police Agency was established and “Crime Victims Notification Systems (1999)” by Public Prosecutors Office was introduced.

- In order to respond to the call for a comprehensive measures, the Basic Act on Crime Victims (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Act”) was adopted by legislation of House members on December 1, 2004 and came into effect on April 1, 2005.

The purpose of the Basic Act was, by providing the Basic Principles of the measures for crime victims, clarifying the responsibilities of the States, local governments, and the citizens, and defining matters that would be a base of the measures, to promote the measures comprehensively and systematically, and thereby to protect rights and profits of crime victims.

Under the Basic Act, the government established “Basic Plan for Crime Victims” (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Plan”), and in accordance with the enactment of “Basic Act”, the Cabinet Office set up “Council for the Promotion of Policies for Crime Victims” (hereinafter referred to as the “Promotion Council”).

Outline of Basic Act

■Purpose■ (Article 1: Protect the rights and profits of crime victims)

- Provide the basic principles concerning measures for crime victims.
- Provide the basic matters of the responsibilities and measures of the States, local governments, and citizens.
→Promote measures for crime victims comprehensively and systematically

■Object■ (Article 2: Crime victims)

- Crime (crime and equivalent acts that have a harmful influence on the mind and body) victims and their family or their bereaved family.

■Basic principles■ (Article 3)

- Crime victims shall have rights to be respected for their individual dignity and be assured of treatment appropriate for their individual dignity.
- The measures for crime victims shall be taken properly according to the situation and reason for the harm having occurred, the situation in which crime victims are in, and other circumstances.
- Crime victims can receive necessary support continuously until their peaceful life regained.

■Responsibilities of the States, local governments, and citizens, and cooperation with organizations concerned■ (Articles 4 to 7)

■ Basic measures ■ (Articles 11 to 23)

■ Basic measures ■

- Consultation and provision of information, etc. (Article 11)
- Support with regard to claims for damages, etc. (Article 12)
- Improvement of system concerning payment of benefits, etc. (Article 13)
- Provision of healthcare services and welfare services (Article 14)
- Preventing crime victims from receiving harm again and securing safety (Article 15)
- Stabilization of residence and employment (Articles 16 to17)
- Development of the system to expand opportunities to participate in criminal procedures, etc. (Article 18)
- Consideration in the process of protection, investigation, and trial, etc. (Article 19)
- Fostering understanding of citizens (Article 20)
- Promotion of research studies, etc. (Article 21)
- Aid for private entities (Article 22)
- Reflecting opinions and securing transparency (Article 23)



■ Basic Plan for Crime Victims ■ (Article 8)

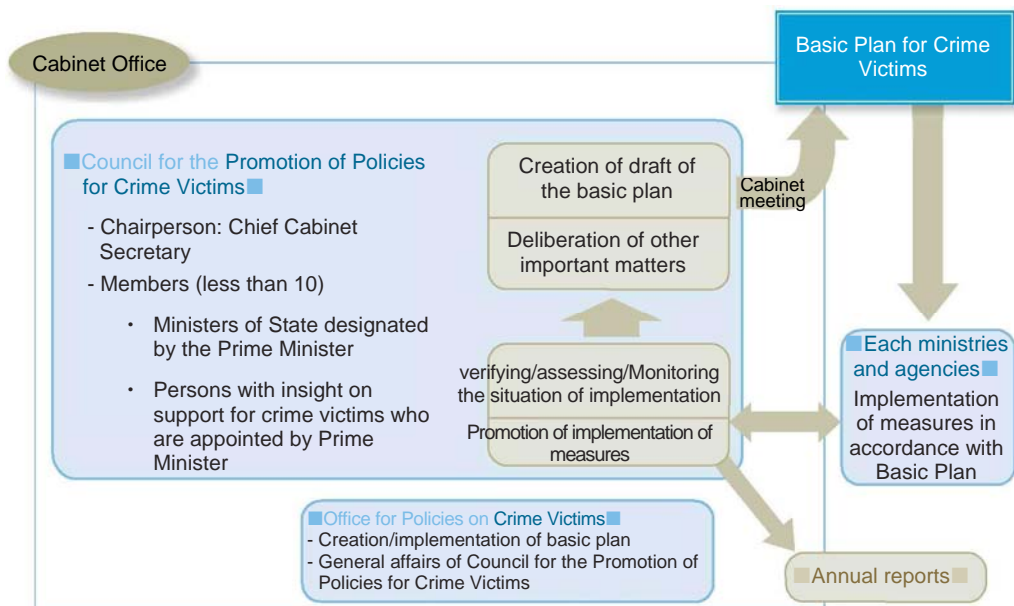
- Outline of measures for crime victims that shall be taken comprehensively on a long-term basis
- Necessary Matters to promote the measures for crime victims comprehensively and systematically

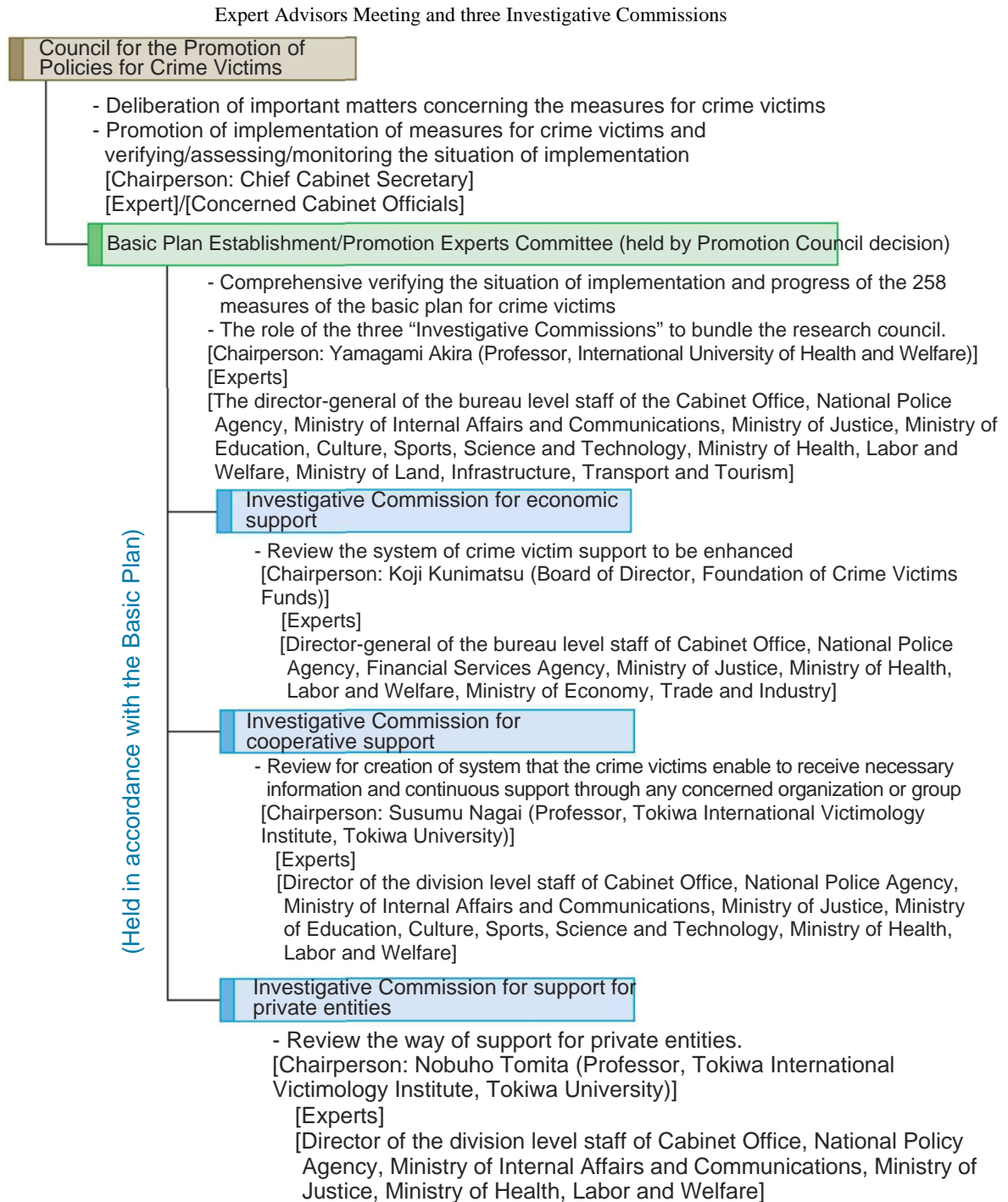
Section 2 Outline of Government-wide promotion system

- Promotion Council 1) create a draft of the basic plan, 2) deliberate important matters concerning the measures for of crime victims, 3) promote implementation of the measures, and 4) verify/assess/monitor the situation of implementation.

Basic Plan Establishment/Promotion Expert Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Expert Committee") was established in April 2006 to supplement the Promotion Council, and secure the cooperation with three Investigative Commissions and consistence of discussion.

Government-wide Promotion System of Measures for Crime Victims



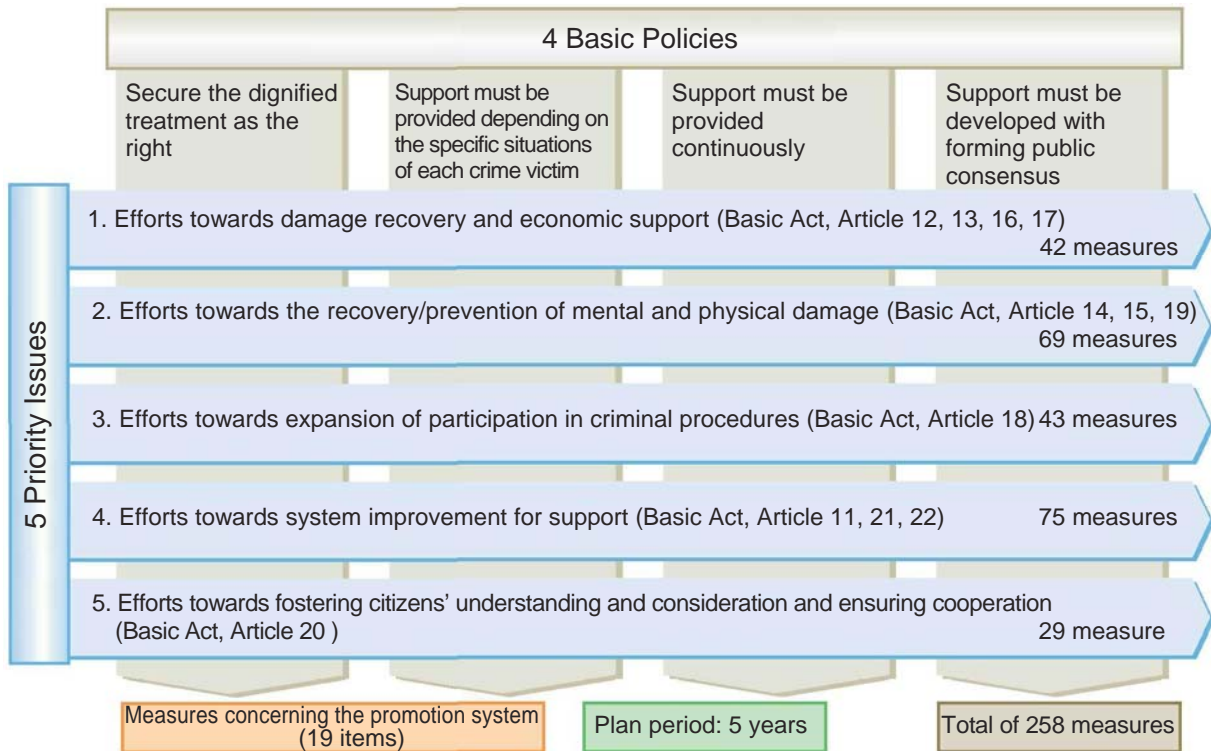


Section 3 Outline of Basic Plan for Crime Victims

- In December 2005, the Cabinet meeting decided to the basic plan through the decision of the approval of draft of the basic plan by Promotion Council.

In this basic plan, 258 concrete measures were made incorporating four basic policies and five priority issues.

4 Basic Policies and 5 Priority Issues



Section 4 Activity status of measures

concerning the promotion system

- Sixth Promotion Council was held in November 2007. It is decided that the implementation of measures in accordance with the final summary report of the three Investigative Commissions is need to be promoted strongly and effectively by whole government. Earlier, the 4th Expert Advisors Meeting was held in October 2007, and final summary of each Commission was reported by each chairperson. The progress status of Basic Plan was also reported by concerned government ministries and agencies in the Meeting.

- (In May 2008, a meeting of principle division directors of measures for crime victims from prefectures and cities designated by government ordinance. The department in charge in each prefecture and the cities designated by government ordinance and implementation of the system were confirmed. Lectures by experts, case demonstrations by participants who are involved in the progressive approach, and the reports of the efforts and the status by the States were introduced to share information. Also, "E-mail Magazine on measures for crime victims" is being sent to concerned ministries and local governments to share information.