

Part 1 Featured Article: Formulation of the Fourth Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc.

The Basic Act on Crime Victims (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Act”) stipulates that the government must establish a basic plan concerning policies for crime victims, etc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Plan”) in order to promote policies for crime victims in a comprehensive and planned manner (Article 8, paragraph 1 of the Basic Act). Pursuant to the Basic Act, in December 2005 the “Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc.” (decided by the Cabinet on December 27, 2005, and hereinafter referred to as the “First Basic Plan”), in March 2011 the “Second Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc.”

(decided by the Cabinet on March 25, 2011), and in April 2016 the “Third Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc.” (decided by the Cabinet on April 1, 2016, and hereinafter referred to as the “Third Basic Plan”) were formulated respectively. Since the duration of the Third Basic Plan expires at the end of FY2020, the “Fourth Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc.” (decided by the Cabinet on March 30, 2021, and hereinafter referred to as the “Fourth Basic Plan”) was formulated, whose planning period is five years from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026.

Chapter 1 Formulation Process of the Fourth Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc.

1 Framework for consideration

The Basic Act stipulates that the Prime Minister must seek a cabinet decision on a draft of the basic plan for crime victims, etc. (Article 8, paragraph 3 of the Basic Act), and that the creation of the draft shall be the charge of the Council for the Promotion of Policies for Crime Victims (hereinafter referred to as the “Promotion Council”), which has been established as a special organization of the Cabinet Office (Article 24, paragraph 2, item i of the Basic Act).

Under the Promotion Council, it is supposed to hold Expert Committee for the Formulation and Promotion of the Basic Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Expert Committee”), in order to consider matters to be included in a new plan when reviewing the Basic Plan, and assist the inspection, assessment, and monitoring of the implementation status of the policies for crime victims, etc. (“Holding the Expert Committee for the Formulation and Promotion of the Basic Plan” (decided by the Promotion Council on February 15, 2010; partially amended on April 1, 2016 and March 30, 2021))

Since the Act for Partial Amendment of the National Government Organization Act came into force in April 2016 to strengthen the functions of the comprehensive coordination of important policies of the Cabinet, the jurisdiction relating to the creation and promotion of the Basic Plan was transferred to the National Public Safety Commission (National Police Agency). Therefore, the Fourth Basic Plan is the first plan formulated after the transfer of this jurisdiction.

2 Calling for opinions and requests on the revision of the Third Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc.

The Basic Act stipulates that the State and local governments are to take the necessary measures to establish a system in which the opinions of crime victims, etc. are taken into consideration in policies and that ensures transparency of the process of formulation of policies, etc. in order to contribute to the proper establishment and implementation of policies for crime victims, etc. (Article 23 of the Basic Act)

To formulate the Fourth Basic Plan, the government called for opinions and requests from people from all walks of life by mail, fax or e-mail from July 29 to August 29, 2019, and meetings to hear opinions and requests from crime victims groups and organization that support crime victims, etc. were held later that month. As a result, a total of about 530 opinions and requests were received from 148 people and 75 organizations.

3. Assessment of implementation status of the Third Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc.

The Basic Act stipulates that the Promotion Council takes charge of inspecting, assessing and monitoring the status of implementation of the policies for crime victims, etc., and expressing opinions on the structure of the policies to the relevant administrative organs (Article 24, paragraph 2, item ii of the Basic Act), whereas the Expert Committee shall assist the inspection, assessment and monitoring of the

implementation status, as mentioned in 1 above. Since January 2020, the Expert Committee members had been discussing, and on October 29, 2020, the Promotion Council decided the evaluation of the implementation status of the Third Basic Plan. The evaluation was conducted for each of the five priorities established in the Third Basic Plan: 1) Efforts to recover the victims' damages and to provide them with economic support, 2) Efforts for the victims to recover from or to prevent mental and/or physical damage, 3) Efforts to broaden the opportunity for victims to participate in criminal procedures, 4) Efforts to improve the systems to support crime victims, etc., and 5) Efforts to foster the understanding among citizens and to earn their consideration and cooperation. The efforts during the planning period of the Third Basic Plan were then evaluated and future challenges were presented. Specifically, while the Expert Committee commended the efforts of the relevant ministries for implementation of cross-sectional and comprehensive policies and steadily promoting them and achieving a certain level of results, it also pointed out the need for further efforts, including medium- to long-term support for crime victims, etc., and the need to consider the support for victims whose damages tend to be hidden.

4. Consideration process up to formulation of the Fourth Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc.

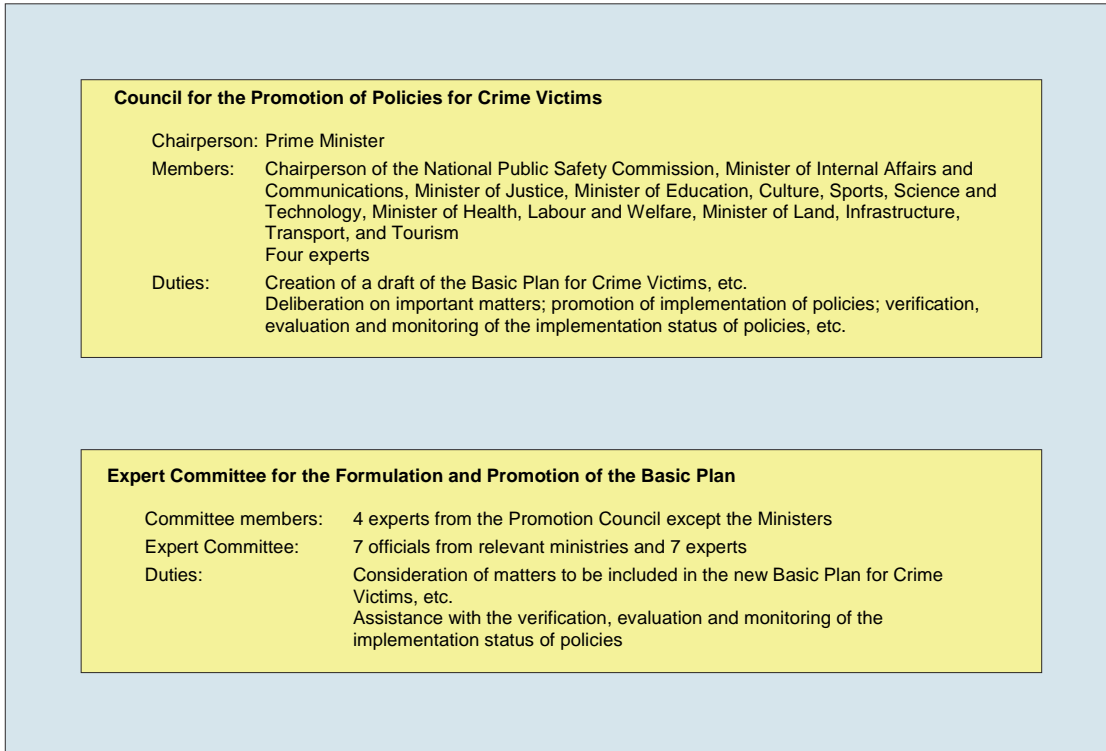
Based on the opinions and requests received on the review and evaluation of the implementation status of the Third Basic Plan, some matters to be considered for the formulation of the Fourth Basic Plan were identified and discussed at the Expert Committee held about once a month since January 2020.

As the novel coronavirus infection spread in 2020, the meetings were held in writing from April to early July, and then held online from August onwards by taking into consideration the prevention of infection. At the Expert Committee held on September 17, 2020, an outline of the Fourth Basic Plan was compiled, which was decided at the Promotion Council held on October 29, 2020.

From November 2 to 24, 2020, public comments on the outline were solicited, and a total of 330 opinions were received from 41 individuals and 12 organizations. At the Expert Committee held on December 24, 2020 and January 28, 2021, the specific policies included in the outline were revised based on these opinions, and the draft of the Fourth Basic Plan was compiled.

Subsequently, the draft was decided at the Promotion Council held on March 30, 2021, and the Fourth Basic Plan was decided at the Cabinet meeting on the same day.

Consideration System for formulation of the Fourth Basic Plan



Scene from the Promotion Council



Scene from the Expert Committee



Members of the Promotion Council and the Expert Committee

As of March 2021

Council for the Promotion of Policies for Crime Victims		Expert Committee for the Formulation and Promotion of the Basic Plan	
Chairperson	Title	Expert Committee members	Title
SUGA Yoshihide	Prime Minister	National Police Agency	Councilor for Policies for Crime Victims, etc.
Members of Promotion Council		Cabinet Office	Deputy Director General for Gender Equality, Minister's Secretariat
OKONOGI Hachiro	Chairperson of the National Safety Commission	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	Deputy Director General for Policy Coordination, Minister's Secretariat
TAKEDA Ryota	Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications	Ministry of Justice	Assistant Vice-Minister for Policy Planning and Coordination, Minister's Secretariat
KAMIKAWA Yoko	Minister of Justice	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	Assistant Minister for Policy Coordination, Minister's Secretariat
HAGIUDA Koichi	Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	Director-General for Policy Planning, Coordination and Evaluation
TAMURA Norihisa	Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	Vice Director General, Policy Bureau
AKABA Kazuyoshi	Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	ASUKAI Nozomu	President of Aoki Hospital Medical Corporation Aoyamakai
Experts		ITO Fujie	Visiting researcher and former professor, Faculty of Integrated Human Sciences, Department of Social Welfare, Sophia University
OTA Tatsuya	Professor, Faculty of Law, Keio University	KIKUCHI Yoshimi	Professor, Faculty of Law, Waseda University
NAKAJIMA Satomi	Professor, Faculty of Human Sciences, Musashino University	OGISO Ryo	Professor, Graduate School of Law, Chuo University
NAKASONE Eriko	Director, Public Interest Incorporated Association Niigata Victim Support Center	KAWAIDE Toshihiro	Professor, Graduate School for Law and Politics, the University of Tokyo
MASAKI Yasuko	Attorney	TAKE Ruriko	Crime victim bereaved family
		KATO Hiroshi	Crime victim bereaved family

Consideration Process up to the formulation of the Fourth Basic Plan

2019	
July 29 - August 29	Calling for opinions and requests from the public
Late August	Holding meetings to hear opinions and requests from crime victims groups and organizations that support crime victims, etc.
2020	
January 30	The 29th meeting of the Expert Committee - Assessment of the Third Basic Plan - Matters identified in the review of the Third Basic Plan
February 20	The 30th Meeting of the Expert Committee - Discussion on the matters (1) Enhancement of support for crime victims in local governments Operation status of the Benefit System for Crime Victims, etc.
April 13 - May 12	The 31st Meeting of the Expert Committee (held in writing) - Discussion on the matters (2) Support for crime victims whose damages tend to be hidden Use of the Liaison Conference for Victim Support How to support crime victims when there are many victims in a case such as indiscriminate killing
May 1 - May 27	The 32nd Meeting of the Expert Committee (held in writing) - Discussion on the matters (3) Treatment of offenders based on the viewpoints of victims, etc. Promotion of private organizations' activities
June 5 - July1	The 33rd Meeting of the Expert Committee (held in writing) - Discussion on the outline and draft of the Fourth Basic Plan - Discussion on how to respond to such items identified in the opinions and requests as "matters for which the responsible ministries and agencies should consider and submit a draft"
July 20	The 34th Meeting of the Expert Committee - Discussion on how to respond to such items identified in the opinions and requests as "matters to be discussed"
August 20	The 35th Meeting of the Expert Committee (held online and in writing) - Discussion on how to respond to the opinions and requests that the Draft of the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the review of the plan should be taken into consideration - Consideration of the implementation status of the Third Basic Plan
September 17	The 36th Meeting of the Expert Committee (held online and in writing) - Decision on the draft of the evaluation of the implementation status of the Third Basic Plan - Compilation of the outline and draft of the Fourth Basic Plan
October 29	The 14th Meeting of the Promotion Council (held on a rotating basis) - Decision on the evaluation of the implementation status of the Third Basic Plan - Decision on the outline and draft of the Fourth Basic Plan
November 2 - 24	Public comments on the outline and draft of the Fourth Basic Plan
December 24	The 37th Meeting of the Expert Committee (held online and writing) - Consideration of the outline and draft the Fourth Basic Plan based on the public comments
2021	
January 28	The 38th Meeting of the Expert Committee (held online and in writing) - Consideration and compilation of the Fourth Basic Plan
March 30	The 15th Meeting of the Promotion Council - Decision on the draft of the Fourth Basic Plan Cabinet Decision on the Fourth Basic Plan