

# VICTIMS RIGHTS WORKING GROUP

## DEFINITION OF A VICTIM

As a minimum, the Victims Rights Working Group proposes the following definition of **victim** to apply for all purposes. The definition was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in the *Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* in 1985 (GA/RES/40/34).

**'Victims' means persons who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, as a result of acts or omissions that constitute crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court. The term 'victim' also includes, where appropriate, the immediate family or dependants of the direct victim and persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist victims in distress or to prevent victimization.<sup>1</sup>**

march 2000

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<sup>1</sup> The Working Group on Procedural Matters during the Rome Conference adopted a footnote to Articles 68 and 75 indicating that for the purpose of interpreting 'victim' the definition is contained in the UN Declaration.