



**fidh**

## **Whose Court is it?**

Judicial handbook on victims' rights  
at the International Criminal Court

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Whose Court is it?** This question must be asked when assessing implementation of the groundbreaking provisions on victims' rights since the adoption of the Rome Statute, more than 20 years ago, and considering how to concretely move towards an effective victim-centred approach in proceedings at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Judges have the highest authority within a court. They have the duty and privilege to ensure that justice is carried out, not just for the victims, but also with the victims: as envisioned in the Rome Statute and in line with international law, victims must be meaningfully and actively part of the justice process. Judicial practice must reflect recognition of victims as active rights holders, their aspirations and priorities. This Court, after all, belongs to them.

In addition to strengthening the Court's credibility and legitimacy, the recognition of victims' rights pays tribute to the centrality of victims' experiences and their potential to contribute to the justice process. It also underlines that respect for the rule of law plays a central role in rebuilding societies and that having members of the communities individually engaged with rule of law processes can significantly contribute to social reconstruction. Victim participation can also strengthen the work of the Court, as victims provide important factual and cultural context regarding the crimes committed and their impact. Victim participation can help the ICC establish the truth, facts and responsibilities and bring concrete reality, and humanity, to the courtroom.

The purpose of this judicial handbook, based on research and interviews with 18 practitioners and experts, is to take stock of judicial implementation of victims' rights at the ICC as of early 2021. The goal is to produce key practical recommendations for Chambers on the role they can, and must, play in ensuring meaningful exercise of victims' rights. Indeed, the election of six new judges in 2020 and their swearing-in in March 2021 should be viewed as an opportunity for all the ICC judges to renew their commitment to upholding the rights of victims throughout the Court proceedings and to harmonise their procedural rights.

The main findings are structured in seven chapters. Based on these findings, FIDH makes a series of specific recommendations to ICC Chambers, on each of the topics addressed in this report. The recommendations can be found at the end of each chapter.

## Chapter I: Decision-making on victims' rights

Judges play a central role in ensuring the meaningful and effective implementation of victims' rights. However, the ICC Chambers' practice so far on various aspects of victims' rights lacks consistency and reflects a sometimes narrow interpretation of victims' role under the Rome Statute framework.

This Chapter provides an overview of the prerequisites in terms of the decision-making process on victims' rights. It addresses the qualities required of judges (1), the importance of making high-quality, informed decisions and ways of strengthening judges' expertise on victims' rights and their understanding of dynamics in the situation countries (2), and the need to follow the guidance and best practices from the international human rights law framework on victims' rights (3). It also underlines the need for some legal certainty (4) and highlights the contribution of dissenting opinions by judges with advanced expertise on victims' rights (5).

In order to make high-quality informed decisions on victims' rights, as well as to be fully aware of the impact of their decisions on affected communities, judges must consult victims - as active rights holders - on all matters that affect their interests. Judges should also have or develop knowledge of victims' procedural rights and country dynamics and ensure that their decisions reflect the current state of the law, including best practices from international human rights law.

To render victims' access to the Court effective, it is paramount that Chambers harmonise their practices in order to give legal certainty to victims and practitioners. They must only depart from established jurisprudence, in particular from the Appeals Chamber, when it is clearly justified. This requires updating the Chambers Practice Manual and making its language more prescriptive. In addition, Chambers should allow issues related to the interpretation of victims' rights to

go on appeal as much as possible. Finally, it is fundamental that judges with more progressive approaches to victims' rights record through dissenting opinions their disagreements with certain restrictive interpretations.

## Chapter 2: Fulfilment of victims' rights through legal representation

At the heart of victims' access to justice is adequate and effective legal representation, as it is the most crucial factor in victims' experience of the Court. Meaningful victim participation is conditioned by adequate legal representation. The practice of the Court in terms of legal representation so far has been very variable, with different systems being tested. While legal texts recognise victims' freedom to choose their lawyer, there is a growing tendency of some Chambers towards internalisation of legal representation for victims, appointing the Office of the Public Counsel for Victims (OPCV) as the common legal representative for victims, without due regard to their choices and needs, sometimes without even consulting them.

This Chapter highlights some of the lessons learned based on the Court's practice thus far, as well as key principles that must be borne in mind when judges take decisions related to legal representation for victims. While victims are free to choose their legal representative (1), the necessity for common legal representation for hundreds, sometimes thousands of victims, implies the adoption of a systematic and sequential approach to Rule 90(2), taking the dynamics in the country into account (3). The composition of the team of victims' legal representatives is of utmost importance, and victims should be able to engage lawyers who combine both knowledge of and proximity to victim communities, as well as expertise on the ICC (4). The role of OPCV requires clarification, as it seems to have become increasingly the go-to option for common legal representation, even though it was not initially intended to replace external counsel (5). These trends are also linked to the current legal aid policy for victims, that suffers from the inadequacy of a system initially meant for the Defence (6).

Chambers must respect victims' freedom to choose their lawyer. They should adopt a sequential approach to Rule 90, whereby victims are allowed to organise their own common legal representation before that control is relinquished to the Registry and the Chamber when victims are unable to agree. Clear standard procedures, based on this sequential approach, should be included in the Chambers Practice Manual. Knowledge of and proximity to the victim communities should be a priority over expertise on the ICC when appointing a common legal representative for victims, and Chambers should ensure that victims are properly consulted before any decision on their legal representation. It is also essential that an improved policy of legal aid for victims be put in place.

## Chapter 3: Victims' right to information

Information is a pre-condition to exercising one's rights. Meaningful participation requires that victims know of and understand the process, and that there are clear and accessible systems in place. This means ensuring effective outreach programmes and engagement with victims. However, these are areas in which the Court has been criticised, including in relation to insufficient outreach and engagement with victims before the opening of a formal investigation.

This Chapter focuses on the importance that outreach has for victims to be able to effectively exercise their rights and for furthering the Rome Statute's objectives (1). It also highlights the challenges for the Registry (2), and describes the role Chambers can play in reaffirming the centrality of outreach and victims' engagement (3).

Chambers can contribute to improving the Court's track record in this area by recognising, in their decisions, the duty of the Court to effectively enable victims' right to information through proper communication and outreach. This includes triggering the Registry's outreach mandate as early as the preliminary examination stage. Such decisions must be made in close consultation with the Registry.

## Chapter 4: Victims' rights in the preliminary and investigation stages

The Court's current practice has shown that the role of victims during the preliminary and investigation phases depends on how Pre-Trial Chambers interpret their own mandate to monitor the Prosecutor's actions. The modes of implementation of the rights of victims at these stages remain relatively vague.

This Chapter gives an overview of victims' rights in the preliminary and investigation stages. It begins by exploring the added value of victim participation in early stages (1), before looking at specific proceedings which explicitly invite victims to participate and submit their views without a cumbersome process for the Court (Article 15(3), Article 19(3) and Article 53(3)(a) of the Rome Statute), and enable them to participate in any judicial proceeding that affects their interests (Rule 93 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and Article 68(3)) (2). While the need for early outreach and engagement with victims is quite clear (3), setting up existing procedures to enable victim participation at early stages (4) can be challenging, and requires balancing on one side the need for consistency, and on the other side the need to adapt to the context (5).

As the Court develops its practice, victims should be given more room for participation at the early stages. They should be able to challenge the Prosecutor's choices before a Pre-Trial Chamber, in particular to appeal decisions not to investigate. Pre-Trial judges can guarantee a meaningful role for victims in shaping investigations and prosecutions, by clarifying the scope of and procedures for victims' involvement in proceedings as soon as a situation comes before the Pre-Trial Chamber.

## Chapter 5: The process to authorise the participation of victims

This Chapter outlines the evolution and current process of victims' applications to participate in ICC proceedings, their assessment and authorisation. While the application process was marked by challenges and shortcomings in the earlier years of the Court, it has now gained efficiency, in relation to both the victims' application form (2) and the assessment process, known as the 'A, B, C system' (4). The Court could however benefit from more legal clarity as to when the victims' full application process under Rule 89 applies (1), how to interpret the definition of victim when granting victim status (3), and with regard to the redaction of victims' applications (5) and timing of victims' applications' (6). The Victims Participation and Reparations Section (VPRS) has an important role to play in this process (7) that Chambers need to acknowledge.

Chambers can contribute to more effective participation of victims by recognising that the written application process and judicial determination under Rule 89 should be reserved for general participation under Article 68(3). It should not apply to victims' involvement in specific proceedings under Articles 15(3), 19(3) and 53(3)(a), or when the Chamber uses its discretionary power to seek victims' views in a simplified procedure, including under Rule 93.

Concerning the application process itself, the current four-page application form and the simplified process for admitting victims to participate (known informally as the 'A, B, C system'), are welcome developments. The Chambers Practice Manual should be updated to reflect this practice, in order to harmonise practice across Chambers.

Regarding the recognition of victim status, the scope of the Prosecution's charges inevitably limits the number of people who may be eligible for victim status. Since Chambers have a discretionary power to be more flexible in their interpretation of the term "victim", they can, and should, adopt a broader approach beyond a strict causal link between the charges and victim status.

In terms of timing, VPRS should start collecting and processing victims' applications for a case as soon as an arrest warrant is issued. In addition, the procedure for admission before the Chamber should start immediately and continue on an ongoing basis.

## Chapter 6: Modalities of participation

It must be recognised as a major achievement that there is now an established practice of victim participation at the ICC, a significant part of which is no longer questioned. However, little guidance is given by the founding texts as to how such participation should be organised, which has led judges to apply different modalities in different cases. Hence, ICC practice to date has lacked consistency, with Chambers deciding on the modalities of implementation of victims' rights on an *ad hoc* basis, sometimes leading to very limited possibilities to exercise rights.

This Chapter briefly explores the role of the presiding judge, the rights of victim 'participants', and the notion of 'personal interests of victims' (1), and gives an overview of the implementation of victims' participatory rights to date (2), in particular the right to appeal (3).

Victims' procedural rights should be harmonised and guaranteed throughout the proceedings, with Chambers ensuring a meaningful and effective exercise of victims' general right to participation.

It is important for Chambers to issue a framework decision at the beginning of an investigation clarifying the modalities of victim participation, clearly stating the procedure for victims' legal representatives to file submissions and receive notification of hearings, filings and decisions. In addition to submissions by their legal representatives, victims should be allowed to present their views and concerns in person.

Participating victims have the possibility to give evidence pertaining to the guilt or innocence of the accused, and to challenge the admissibility or relevance of evidence, as confirmed by Appeals Chamber's jurisprudence. Judges should allow time in the courtroom for victims' counsel to intervene and should not overly restrict the number of witnesses neither limit the scope of questioning of witnesses and experts in such a way as to contradict the Appeals Chamber's jurisprudence. Moreover, the Chambers Practice Manual should recognise the standard practice of allowing legal representatives to make a request to ask questions during the hearing (as opposed to submitting questions in advance). The role of the presiding judge is central in this regard.

Victims have a right to participate in appeals. The Appeals Chamber must ensure victims have proper access to justice and consider victims' applications to participate in a consistent manner. In terms of interlocutory appeals, it is now standard practice that victims who have participated in the proceedings have the right to file a response to the document in support of the appeal.

Victims should also be allowed to lodge an appeal against certain decisions. There are issues on which victims' interests are deeply affected, in relation to which they must be recognised as a 'party' (e.g., decisions on their victim status or on their legal representation, or decisions to deny an investigation). Chambers should identify a non-exhaustive list of issues on which victims will always be authorised to appeal and, most importantly, grant leave to appeal on these issues in order to promote clarification and harmonisation.

## Chapter 7: Reparations

The ICC reparations system is unique and novel, and the practices and case law developed to date must be seen as achievements in and of themselves. So far, only four cases have reached the reparation phase, partly due to the very slow pace of implementation and the varying approaches applied by Chambers.





This Chapter highlights the basic principles and lessons learned in relation to reparations for victims. It starts by addressing the meaning of effective reparations (1), before focusing on the need for institutional principles on reparations (2), the role of Chambers (3), in particular regarding the identification of beneficiaries (4), the assessment of the harm (5) and in defining the types and modalities of reparations (7). The Chapter also explains the complementary roles of the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV or Trust Fund) and VPRS (8). While victims should be consulted and included at all stages of the reparations process, in a timely and effective way (9), judges should encourage the Trust Fund to use its general assistance mandate to provide urgent relief to victims at the early stage of a situation, in order to address their most immediate needs (10).

This handbook suggests the adoption of Court-wide principles on reparations, as mandated under Article 75(1), in order to ensure a level of certainty and consistency. The basis for these principles can be taken from the principles established in cases to date.

Chambers should outline as early as possible the steps to be taken before a reparations order, including in relation to identification of beneficiaries, appointment of experts, and submissions by different actors. Chambers should clarify the possible procedures for identifying beneficiaries and their practical implications, including whether victims should fill in application forms. The recommended approach is to combine the reception of individual applications with an additional separate process of identification. The focus should be on how victims can be empowered to be part of the process, for which it is essential to provide clarity as to the requirements and procedures.

In terms of assessment of the harm, practice shows that sampling, instead of individual assessments, is more appropriate to understand the type of victimisation and the needs of a group.

Regarding modalities of reparations, an important issue to consider is whether and to what extent reparations should respond to what victims want. While the Court has a tendency to favour collective reparations, often victims show a preference for individual reparations, and sometimes even reject the notion of collective reparations.

The Trust Fund for Victims and VPRS are complementary to each other and should work together. While coordination issues will not be resolved without appropriate action from the leadership of the Registry and the Trust Fund, Chambers can facilitate collaboration between them.

Chambers should provide sufficient guidance and clarity on the elements that need to be included in a draft implementation plan of a reparations order and monitor their implementation by requesting regular reports and imposing a clear timeline.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Chapter I: Decision-making on victims' rights

**On the issue of decision-making on victims' rights, FIDH recommends that ICC Chambers:**

1. Consult victims and their legal representatives on all matters that affect victims' interests;
2. Ensure that Presiding Judges have extensive experience in leading courtroom proceedings and have an adequate knowledge of victims' procedural rights, including the Court's jurisprudence on this issue;
3. Develop the knowledge and skills of judges and staff on victims' rights through a thorough induction for new arrivals, exchanges of experience with current and former ICC judges and staff and/or peers in other international courts, and continuous professional development initiatives and training sessions;
4. Undertake as many country visits as possible and organise opportunities to listen directly to ICC staff who work with victims, in particular local or staff based in the country, from VPRS, PIOS and TFV;
5. Request submissions from all participants in the proceedings and the Registry before making decisions on complex issues related to victims' rights, in order to ensure that decisions adequately reflect the current state of the law;
6. Ensure systematic referencing in decisions of sources on which Chambers' findings are based, in order to ensure that decisions adequately reflect the current state of the law;
7. Respect the decisions of other Chambers, and depart from established practice or jurisprudence only where it is justified on grounds which are set out with precision in the decision/judgment, in particular with regards to jurisprudence of the Appeals Chamber;
8. Develop and update the Chambers Practice Manual, under the leadership of the Presidency, in order to reflect current jurisprudence and practice on victims' rights and make its language more prescriptive;
9. Allow issues related to the interpretation of victims' rights to be appealed where possible, in particular on the issues of legal representation and modalities of participation; and
10. Encourage issuing dissenting opinions that can contribute to advancing victims' rights in the long term.

## Chapter 2: Fulfilment of victims' rights through legal representation

**On the issue of legal representation of victims, FIDH recommends that ICC Chambers:**

1. Respect victims' freedom to choose their lawyer, as outlined in Rule 90(1), as the starting principle for deciding on issues of legal representation, and consult them before issuing decisions that affect their choice of counsel;
2. When organising common legal representation, follow Rule 90 (rather than Regulation 80), and always take into consideration the views of the Registry (VPRS), the dynamics in the country, and the needs of legal representation at the local level;
3. Use a sequential approach to Rule 90, whereby victims are allowed to attempt to organise their own common legal representation—with the assistance of VPRS—before the Chamber requests VPRS to choose a common legal representative;
4. Develop clear standard procedures regarding common legal representation in the Chambers Practice Manual, in close consultation with the Registry and based on the sequential approach—including the criteria to be used by a Chamber to move from Rule 90(1) to 90(2), and, as a last resort, to Rule 90(3);
5. When organising common legal representation of a large group of victims, direct the Registry to ensure that the composition of legal representatives' teams allow for effective representation of victims, recognising the need for an external counsel as the lead Common Legal Representative, supported by legal/technical staff as well as an adequate team in the country in charge of interacting with victims. The team should be assigned a Legal Officer from OPCV to provide legal advice and assistance on an ongoing basis;
6. Refrain from appointing OPCV as common legal representative when other options are available, and consult with the Registry and victims in this regard;
7. Recognise legal aid as a right of all participating victims who are indigent—whether or not represented by Court appointed common legal representatives—including at early stages of the proceedings; and
8. Direct the Registry to provide adequate overall support to victims' legal representatives, beyond financial support, in order to ensure effective victims' access to the Court through their lawyers.

## Chapter 3:

# Victims' right to information

**With regards to outreach and public information, FIDH recommends that ICC Chambers:**

1. Reaffirm the importance of outreach, public information and engagement with victims in all decisions related to them;
2. Order the Registry, as soon as a situation is assigned to a Pre-Trial Chamber, to establish outreach and public information programmes tailored to the specific situation, taking into account domestic civil society views and perspectives, in coordination with the Prosecutor, and focusing on how victims can engage with the ICC—including during a preliminary examination;
3. Consult and coordinate with the Registry, in particular PIOS and VPRS, before making detailed decisions related to outreach and engagement with victims;
4. Establish systems of reporting and monitoring of the Registry's implementation of orders related to outreach;
5. Give particular consideration to communication and outreach in relation to the reparations phase, taking into account the respective responsibilities of the Registry (PIOS and VPRS), the Trust Fund for Victims and legal representatives of victims;
6. Give advance notice to PIOS of important decisions and make decisions available in writing at the time of their pronouncement; and
7. Request that decisions be systematically and promptly translated into relevant languages.



## Chapter 4: Victims' rights in the preliminary and investigation stages

**With regards to participation in the preliminary and investigation stages, FIDH recommends that ICC Chambers:**

1. Adopt a broader interpretation of the scope of victims' rights in the preliminary examination and investigations stages, in order to enable them to have a meaningful and active role;
2. Adopt a broader and more proactive interpretation of the Pre-Trial Chambers' judicial oversight mandate over the Prosecutor's activities, which in turn will allow for more meaningful exercise of victims' rights;
3. Make full use of the Chamber's discretion under Rule 93 to seek the views of victims as a means of allowing broader and more meaningful participation in the preliminary examination and investigation stages in a simplified manner;
4. Allow victims to appeal decisions where either the Court or the Prosecutor fail to undertake or authorise investigations, thereby hampering victims' rights to truth, justice, and reparations;
5. Allow victims to challenge before a Pre-Trial Chamber the Prosecutor's choices in relation to preliminary examinations and investigations, including the excessive length of certain preliminary examinations;
6. Clarify, as soon as a situation is assigned to a Pre-Trial Chamber, the scope of and procedures for victim participation under Article 68(3) in proceedings related to the situation;
7. Order the Registry, as soon as a situation is assigned to a Pre-Trial Chamber, to establish outreach and public information programmes tailored to the specific situation, focusing on how victims can engage with the ICC, including during a preliminary examination;
8. Recognise, for processes under Articles 15(3), 19(3) and 53(3)(a), that there is no need for victims to be granted the status of victim by a Chamber (following the application process described in Rule 89);
9. Ensure that clear procedures and timelines for victims' Article 15 representations are in place for any Article 15(3) proceedings, allowing sufficient time for victims to make representations; and
10. Instruct the Registry to provide adequate support to victims' legal representatives in their interactions with the Court at the preliminary and investigation stages.

## Chapter 5:

# The process to authorise the participation of victims

**On the process to authorise the participation of victims, FIDH recommends that ICC Chambers:**

1. Recognise that victims do not need to fill in the standard application forms for participation in order to have standing to present their views in proceedings under Articles 15(3), 19(3) and 53(3)(a), and that the formal application process is limited to general participation under Article 68(3);
2. Adopt a broader and more progressive approach to the concept of the causal link between the harm suffered by the victims, their personal interests, and the charges, in order to address the exclusion of some victims from participating in cases due to the Prosecutor's narrow selection of charges;
3. Recognise the use of the current four-page application form for participation as standard practice to be followed, and amend the Chambers Practice Manual accordingly;
4. Recognise the current procedure of victim status determination (known informally as the "A, B, C system") as a standard practice to be followed, and amend the Chambers Practice Manual accordingly;
5. Start the procedure of admission before the Chamber immediately, as soon as a case becomes known (from the issue of an arrest warrant or a summon to appear);
6. Issue timely, clear and comprehensive decisions setting out the process for victims to apply for participation;
7. Give explicit instructions to VPRS in terms of setting up systems at the local level to assist victims with the applications, in consultation with VPRS;
8. Refrain from issuing deadlines after which victims are not allowed to apply to participate in a given proceeding; if needed, suspend the admission process for a (limited) specific part of the proceeding, and reopen the application process as soon as feasible; and
9. Systematically consult and follow recommendations by the Registry's VPRS and Victims and Witnesses Section before making any decision on issues of redaction and protection of a victim's identity.

## Chapter 6: Modalities of participation

**In relation to modalities of participation, FIDH recommends that ICC Chambers:**

1. Ensure that all judges, and particularly Presiding Judges, have extensive experience in leading courtroom proceedings and have adequate knowledge of victims' procedural rights including the Court's jurisprudence;
2. Clarify and harmonise the procedural rights of victims as one of the 'parties' in ICC proceedings, enabling a meaningful and effective exercise of their general right to participation;
3. Align interpretation of the notion of 'personal interests of victims' with the Appeals Chamber's jurisprudence on the issue, recognising that, in the context of presenting evidence and questioning witnesses, such interests include the individual criminal responsibility of the accused in addition to issues related to the harm suffered;
4. Provide proper and clear reasoning for denying specific practical modalities of participation and allow appeals on decisions where they contradict the Court's previous jurisprudence;
5. Consistently allow victims to present their views and concerns in person;
6. Refrain from overly restricting the number of experts and witnesses that victims are allowed to present, and the time allocated to questioning them;
7. Refrain from requiring victims' legal representatives to submit questions in advance when they seek to question witnesses, and allow them to make a request to ask questions at the relevant moment in the hearing, with the Chamber deciding on a case-by-case basis;
8. Issue a framework decision at the beginning of an investigation to clarify the modalities of victim participation, stating the procedure for victims to file submissions and receive notification of documents, including in the period prior to a decision on their applications;
9. Ensure consistent application of victims' rights to participate in appeals in accordance with victims' right to access to justice; and
10. Identify a list of issues on which victims will be authorised to appeal and grant victims leave to appeal those decisions when they seek to do so. Such issues might include, for example, decisions on their victim status, decisions on their legal representation, and decisions to deny an investigation requested by the Prosecutor.

## Chapter 7: Reparations

**On the issues of reparations, FIDH recommends that ICC Chambers:**

1. Adopt institution-wide principles on reparations on the basis of the existing jurisprudence in this area, with a view to ensuring greater consistency, clarity and predictability of the Court's decisions on reparations;
2. Ensure an expeditious reparations process by, inter alia issuing, as early as possible, decisions on the reparations process that outline the steps to be taken in the period leading to the issuance of a reparations order, commissioning experts on reparations at an early stage, and commencing the reparations process prior to the determination of a final appeal on conviction and sentence;
3. Issue comprehensive reparations orders, with sufficient guidance and clarity, that may form the basis of draft implementation plans of the Trust Fund;
4. Facilitate victim's access to reparation by ensuring that the standard application forms for participation also include the option to request reparations, making a presumption that victims who submitted applications for participation are willing to be considered as potential beneficiaries of reparations, and clarifying that the use of an application form for reparations is not mandatory in the process of beneficiary identification;
5. Refrain from ordering an individual assessment of each victim's harm and the extent of the harm, and rely rather on presumptions based on sampling of a group of potential beneficiaries undertaken at an early stage;
6. Do not shy away from ordering individual modalities of reparations, including financial compensation, when this is the primary request of victims;
7. Order the Trust Fund and VPRS to conduct all preparations for reparations jointly, in order to combine their limited resources and their respective expertise and experience—including for processes related to beneficiary identification and development of a Draft Implementation Plan—ensure that their joint work is made public as far as possible, and monitor implementation based on a clear timeline;
8. Ensure victims' inclusion in the different steps of the reparations procedure (mapping of beneficiaries, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) through full and meaningful consultation and engagement with victims, and ensure that their needs are properly reflected in the reparations ordered—including by ordering individual modalities of reparations, e.g. financial compensation, when this is the primary request of victims;
9. Lead the development by the Court of a strengthened policy on identification and freezing of assets of accused persons; and
10. Encourage the Trust Fund to use its 'assistance' mandate to provide much-needed urgent relief to victims of cases, in order to address their immediate needs.



