

**TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

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EVIDENCE –BASED INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION POLICIES¹

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¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

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A. THE NEED FOR EVIDENCE - BASED SOCIAL POLICIES

The importance of developing sound and effective policies has been underlined in the social science field (e.g., Zimmerman, 2001). Evidence-based policies refer to policies based on high quality information, which is derived, among other, from research, expert knowledge, and statistics (Nutley & Webb, 2000). To design such policies, one must acquire strong knowledge that should be based on high quality research on the topics of interest. In other words, a clear connection between the scientific community with the policymaking field must be established (Robila, 2012).

Design of such policies can be done by specialists who have multidisciplinary expertise, have a strong research and scientific background, and also a profound understanding of sociopolitical contexts of different regions. Often, such professionals are difficult to identify. In many cases there are very strong scientists with limited policy experience on one side, and policymakers with limited scientific background on the other, rendering the transfer of knowledge between the two groups difficult. Having a multidisciplinary background allows one to have an in-depth and broad understanding of the complex aspects involved in the evidence-based policymaking process and facilitates the collaborations with colleagues in other fields. A profound understanding of the complex field of international migration research should be a scientific base for migration policy development, implementation and assessment.

B. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION RESEARCH

With the significant growth of an increasingly cultural diverse immigrant population around the globe,

cause psychological distress due to previous political and social experiences (Pernice, 1994). Another difficulty could be sampling (e.g., random, systema

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