

# *A policy in favor of children and young people*

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By María Josefina Arce

In February last year, the Cuban Academy of Sciences proposed to the country's top leadership, in one of its regular meetings, the need for a Comprehensive Policy for the Care of Children and Youth, an initiative on which intense work has been carried out in recent months.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz Canel has insisted on the need to give differentiated attention to young people, providing them with opportunities to develop their capacities and participate in all the country's processes.

Leaders, experts and researchers formed the governmental group in charge of preparing this strategy, with a multisectoral, cross-cutting and comprehensive vision.

Issues related to health, education, employment, culture, sports, housing and migration, among others, are included in the policy, which was submitted for consideration and approved by the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba, meeting in Havana.

In the Commission of Attention to Youth, Children and Women's Equal Rights, which met in the days prior to the plenary session, the Cuban president had urged the deputies to debate this issue responsibly and in depth, since the training and satisfaction of the present and future generations is a concern of the citizenry.

In the preparation of this policy, the criteria of more than 20 thousand young people from all over the country have been taken into account, as well as the opinions of experts linked to institutions and study centers.

Furthermore, specialists have insisted that it was prepared without losing sight of the complex situation the country is going through, after more than two years of the COVID 19 pandemic, the intensification of the U.S. blockade and other external factors.

It is worth noting that we have not started from scratch, since the revolutionary triumph of January 1959, the protection of children and youth has been a priority for the government, which is also endorsed in the Constitution of 2019.

Likewise, the Family Code, sanctioned by Cubans at the polls last September, ensures the rights of the youngest in this area, where the family has the responsibility and duty to ensure the full deployment of their prerogatives.

This new Policy of Attention to Children and Youth responds to the importance that the Cuban State attaches to future generations, to their integral development and to the role they are called upon to play in the country's progress.

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