

*Cuba advocates for safe
migration policies at IV Ibero-
American Forum on Migration
and Development in Ecuador*

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Quito, August 3 (RHC)-- Cuba calls for the implementation of safe migration policies in the region in the context of the IV Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development that concluded on Friday in the capital of Ecuador.

Cuba advocates that the treatment of migrants always take into account the value of life and the unequivocal protection of their human rights, emphasized the ambassador of the Caribbean island in this South American nation, Basilio Gutiérrez.

The Cuban diplomat reiterated that the realities of the globalized world impose the need for cooperation between States as a basis for the formulation and implementation of migration policies.

Likewise, Gutiérrez recalled that, "although sometimes there is an attempt to impose other politically motivated versions, the fundamental cause of irregular migration is in the socioeconomic conditions of the countries of origin."

The Caribbean ambassador stressed that, in the case of Cuba, the condition of a developing country has been exacerbated by the hostile policy of the United States.

The economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the island for more than six decades has been criminally reinforced in recent years, with a comprehensive and all-encompassing system of measures aimed at depressing the standard of living of the population, he said.

However, he stressed, the Cuban government has an effective mechanism to deal with migrants who arrive in the country illegally.

"They are not held in detention centers while they remain in the country. They are transferred to facilities where they have can carry out sports, religious, cultural and recreational activities," he said.

The Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry reported that in the context of the IV Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development, concrete proposals were made here to develop public policies that promote the socio-economic inclusion of migrants in host communities and improve assistance programs.

The Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Alejandro Davalos said: "I believe it is important to reiterate the centrality of a human rights and gender approach in all our policies and strategies to address the challenges of human mobility."

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