

# *Legislating for the people*

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By María Josefina Arce

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Set up at the proposal of the Council of State, these working groups contribute decisively to the good performance of the legislative body, which represents and watches over the interests of all the people.

Their work is therefore essential and, in order to support the work of the Parliament in favor of the population, it is based on a systematic contact with the citizens. To this end, they visit the different territories to learn about the implementation of socioeconomic programs prioritized by the authorities and the opinions of the people.

This constant exchange also allows enriching the debates of the commissions on draft laws and issues that impact the socioeconomic life of the country, and that will be subsequently brought to the consideration of Parliament.

Likewise, as part of the people they represent and of which they are a part, they listen to and dialogue with the inhabitants of their places of residence and their workplaces, for let us remember that they are not professional members of the highest legislative body of the country.

There are many other ways for citizens to actively participate and express their opinion on sensitive issues that affect them. There are the e-mails of the different ministries and of the Parliament, which makes available to every Cuban on its web page the documents that are being studied for their future approval and the reports of the agencies that will report during the session.

Now, for example, the Committee on Education, Culture, Science, Technology and Environment held an interactive forum on the strategy of attention to the Pre-University Vocational Institutes of Exact Sciences, centers promoted by the historic leader of the revolution Fidel Castro to encourage the scientific training of students, in many cases future men and women of science.

This issue, analyzed by that commission, acquires great importance in the current context, in view of the limitations imposed by a tightened U.S. blockade. Precisely, the Cuban head of state, Miguel Díaz Canel, has repeatedly called for a greater use of science and technology to promote a prosperous, sustainable, fair, independent and sovereign development.

Equally important is the participation of the country's top leadership in the debates of the various commissions, to contribute ideas and suggestions on various actions that lead to the search for alternatives to the problems that hinder socioeconomic progress.

As in the working day of the commissions, today there will also be intense and enlightening debates focused on the country's economy, which has been marked in recent times by a tightening of the US economic siege, the COVID 19 pandemic that has required the expenditure of substantial resources, but also by the persistence of old problems.

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