

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES  
AND THREATS ANALYSIS**

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	If freedom of expression were the only aspect to evaluate democracy in the Dominican Republic, its stability would be more than proven. The evaluation presented by this year's report supports this principle. The three years of the government presided by Luis Abinader and his Modern Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Moderno, PRM), have abandoned other practices that affected - from different arenas - the work of independent journalists and large media outlets with dependency from government advertising budgets.
<b>WEAKNESSES</b>	The distribution of official advertising, without regulations that guarantee due equity, continues to be a questionable point. Still, it is yet to be observed whether the draft bill that will upgrade the Law 6132, on freedom of expression and dissemination of thought, in force since 1962, will meet the objective of having a legislation that responds to the needs of a 21st century society.
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	The consultative commission, mentioned in the report, which will present to the Executive Branch the proposal for a new legislation on freedom of expression and dissemination of thought, succeeded what a previous commission could not. During the administration of Leonel Fernandez, 2004-2012, actions were taken to create a new legal framework and, despite many discussions and consultations, there was no result. Now, a draft that will be presented to the Executive Branch -as the aforementioned commission informed it will- will have to be heard in the Legislative Branch as another stage of the due process. The end of this story may be part of the next report, if the final consensus is reached so that the country gains a law that meets the expectations of the Dominican society.
<b>THREATS</b>	With the recent history described above, it does not remain in the area of speculation the declaration that has become a major challenge to reach an agreement that guarantees Dominicans a legal scenario to exercise their right to express themselves freely, and that at the same time provides instruments for the communication business to be viable. The fact that the current government in power guarantees good or excellent degrees of freedom of expression in a president-oriented country stands for itself. Although, it is necessary, as indicated in the 2022 report, that a 21st century law cancels the ever-present possibilities of attempts to condition freedom of the press from any instance, and that a change of government authorities does not ostracize the achievements that this report now includes.

