

**Dominican Republic**  
**Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, treats**

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p>	<p>IT platforms ensure that social demands are not subdued by the will of groups that exercise social control. Recent elections have shown their relevance. Attempts of the government to limit criticism against its activity are met with a key counterweight in digital spaces.</p>
<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p>	<p>Freedom of expression in the Dominican Republic shows weaknesses stemming from an institutional transition that, for decades, has slowed down its democratic consolidation. With a legal framework partially renewed by the 2010 Constitution, the presidential model exerting controls over almost all entities, primarily by means of the advertising budget, hinders the opening necessary in the field of 21<sup>st</sup> century communications.</p>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p>	<p>There is an increasingly favorable balance, resulting from the vibrant prominence of young Dominicans determined to assert their right to freely express their thought, in media spaces – namely social media – and public squares turned into the arena for social protest. This demographic constitutes almost 30% of the 2020 electoral roll, which totaled 7.4 million voters.</p>
<p><b>THREATS</b></p>	<p>However, the country must advance towards an institutional development guaranteeing the fundamental rights of citizens to express themselves in its media ecosystem, primarily in matters relating to freedom of expression, regardless of political and economic circumstances. Dominican media, on the other hand, face the challenge of surviving the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>

